

why can't our children



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Foreign Office thinks Moscow is playing election politics – not reviving Cold War

Russia orders Britons out in spying row

By RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

RUSSIA and Britain were last night locked in the worst espionage row since the end of the Cold War after the Russians accused the British Embassy of running a spy ring and said that they would expel several diplomats.

Sergei Krylov, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, said that he had summoned Sir Andrew Wood, the British Ambassador, to protest at the activities of his staff after a Russian citizen was arrested making contact with British intelligence.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said that there was not a shred of evidence that had been produced against British diplomats and there was no link with the arrest of the Russian charged with espionage.

Speaking just before a dinner in Birmingham for the foreign and defence ministers of the Western European Union, Mr Rifkind said that if the threat against the British Embassy staff was confirmed, he would not hesitate to take retaliatory action. He suggested that this could include tit-for-tat expulsions of Russian diplomatic staff.

British officials poured scorn on suggestions that up to 12 people might be involved but confirmed that at least four were being accused by the Russian intelligence officers.

The Foreign Office believes that the action is being driven by electoral politics in Moscow, especially by several of Mr Yeltsin's immediate entourage. Diplomats are now trying to persuade Moscow to scale down its threatened purge, warning the Russians that this would severely disrupt the increasingly close political links between Britain and Russia.



Sir Andrew: summoned to hear Russia's protest

The Foreign Office dismissed the spying allegations as "completely unjustified" and said that it was still waiting for a formal statement from the Russians.

The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) was more direct. Its spokesman, Aleksandr Zdanovich, said: "Several British intelligence officers who worked under cover of the embassy have been announced *persona non grata* and will be expelled from Russia for activities incompatible with the status of a diplomat."

He added that the spy network had been uncovered after a Russian employee of a federal department was arrested "red-handed" by Russian counter-intelligence officers.

"The arrested man had direct access to secret information and handed to British intelligence information of a political and strategic defence nature," he said.

The man was allegedly recruited in the mid-1990s and was paid for his services. He was charged under Article 94 of the Russian Criminal Code, dealing with treason against the motherland, which carries a maximum penalty of death.

The row is the most serious incident of its kind since 11 British diplomats and journalists were thrown out for spying in 1989, after London initiated a series of expulsions.

Britain has fought the longest and fiercest duel with Russia over espionage of any Western country.

The expulsion of 105 Soviet diplomats, journalists and trade representatives by the Heath government in 1971 remains the single biggest action taken against Moscow by a Western government. Sir Alec Douglas-Home, then Foreign Secretary, was accused by Labour of over-reaction. But Soviet defectors and Western intelligence sources said afterwards that his action dealt a crippling blow to one of the largest Soviet spy rings in the West.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 eased tensions, and although espionage incidents continued, the two sides were usually at pains to play down any rifts. Several of the Britons thrown out in 1989 have been readmitted, a virtual admission by Moscow that their expulsion was based on what they considered to be a political motive.



A Russian militiaman guards the British Embassy yesterday after allegations of a spy caught red-handed

Although the Kremlin chief held friendly talks with John Major during the G7 summit in Moscow last month, relations between the leaders are less close than the Kremlin's ties with his American, German and French counterparts.

Certainly, General Mikhail Barsukov, the FSB chief, blamed for mishandling the Chechen hostage attack earlier this year, could certainly benefit from some favourable publicity.

Also, President Yeltsin, who needs to appeal to nationalist sentiment in his hard-fought re-election campaign, will benefit if his security services are seen exposing a foreign spy ring.

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Inspectors get new powers to improve reading

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR has ordered tough new powers to help school inspectors to raise standards in the three Rs after a damning report on children's literacy in the inner city.

The Prime Minister was said to be alarmed that the report from Ofsted, the school inspection agency, to be published today, showed that four out of five seven-year-olds were reading below the average for their age.

Writing in *The Times* today, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, attacks a "depressing" resistance to inspection findings from local education authorities.

He said their response to inspectors' own tests on pupils, showing the children

Why can't our children read? Pages 14 and 15

were below the level at which their teachers assessed them, was to "pretend inspection methodology was flawed, that we distort the data".

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will today unveil the extra inspection measures, expected to include the power for inspectors to test pupils rather than rely on data from schools. However, this would call into question the reliability of national results for English, particularly for seven-year-olds, whose reading is assessed from set books by teachers.

Mrs Shephard was reported to be "appalled" that the London boroughs of Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets had accused Mr Woodhead of political bias over the

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Body of former CIA chief found

The body of William Colby, the former director of the CIA, who masterminded covert operations in Vietnam, was discovered on a Maryland riverbank yesterday more than a week after he vanished on a canoeing expedition. Police, who discovered his partially submerged body a few hundred yards from his capsized canoe, said there was no evidence of any crime.

Obituary, page 19

Gibraltar threat

Spain's new Foreign Minister has given a warning of a tough new line on Gibraltar, and said that he did not rule out a return to a closed border. Abel Matutes promised to put pressure on the colony if measures to deal with smuggling did not yield swift results.

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Brown takes firm line with Labour opponents over child benefit row

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN gave a warning to Labour critics yesterday that he was standing by his plans to scrap child benefit for older children and told them they could not avoid "tough choices".

But after signs of serious internal divisions on the issue, the Shadow Chancellor made plain that a Labour government could use much of the £700 million a year saving to bring in a new system of school grants designed to help the children of poorer parents stay on beyond the age of 16.

Under the proposals, there would be a national system of educational maintenance allowances through which the

parents of poorer children would be helped with the food and clothing costs of children who stay on. That could also prove controversial because it would inevitably involve means-testing but sources close to Mr Brown say that was an issue that would have to be faced.

Mr Brown described the idea as an "upgrading" of child benefit. But while it is clear that child benefit will remain universal for children up to 16, Mr Brown wants the money used for older children to be aimed at poorer families.

Mr Brown acted after fresh signs of heavyweight opposition to the proposal. In an

interview yesterday Robin Cook, Shadow Foreign Secretary and Labour's chief policy co-ordinator, said the proposal was not "carved in stone" and was the subject of a review.

But in an interview with the *World at One* on BBC Radio 4, Mr Brown told his opponents, who include Labour MPs who feared the plan might deter children from lower and middle income families from staying on at school, that "the status quo is not an option."

The Shadow Chancellor was forced to intervene after a spate of weekend reports suggesting that he was at odds with many of his Shadow

Cabinet colleagues over his proposal floated two weeks ago to end child benefit for 1.1 million children aged over 16 in full-time education.

Mr Brown has been subjected to strong internal criticism for lack of consultation over the plan, although it is known that Tony Blair was aware of it and endorsed it.

However, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, who has been conducting a review of the future of child benefit, was taken by surprise when Mr Brown announced it in the John Smith memorial

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Welfare plans, page 2

Boys crash truck into bungalow

A FAMILY of five were forced to leave their ruined home after teenagers sent a 30-tonne dumper truck crashing into it.

Police had chased the huge vehicle for more than a mile before the boys jumped out, leaving the 15ft-high truck to career down a steep hill at Pontllynn, Gwent. Nick Lewis, 28, whose family was out at the time, jumped through a bedroom window as the truck uprooted a tree and demolished a conservatory before slamming into his bungalow.

He and his wife Amanda, 26, and children Christopher, four, Gillian, two, and Charlotte, three months, were advised to move out.

Two 14-year-old boys were arrested and released on bail.

Search for girls who fled boarding school

By ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS AND CAROL MIDGLEY

POLICE were last night searching for two teenage girls who have not been seen since they ran away from their £5,000-a-year boarding school a week ago.

Kirsty Ann Boyd and Aileen McGhie, both 15, sneaked out of their dormitories in the early hours and were reportedly later seen drinking tea at a nearby peace camp. The girls met only seven days before they disappeared last Tuesday, but their teachers said they struck up an instant

friendship. Concern for their safety is growing as it is believed they have no more than £8 in cash between them.

Angus MacDonald, the headmaster of Lomond School, Helensburgh, near Dumbarton, appealed for the girls to make contact. He said he was in constant touch with the girls' parents and added: "They are worried silly."

The girls' housemaster, Stephen Kilday, added: "We are completely shocked. They are both very pleasant girls. We



Kirsty, left, Aileen right: became instant friends

have no clues." Aileen arrived at the mixed school two weeks ago having moved from the United States. Kirsty Ann's parents are based in Germany where her father is a British

Army officer and she has been a pupil at Lomond since the age of 11.

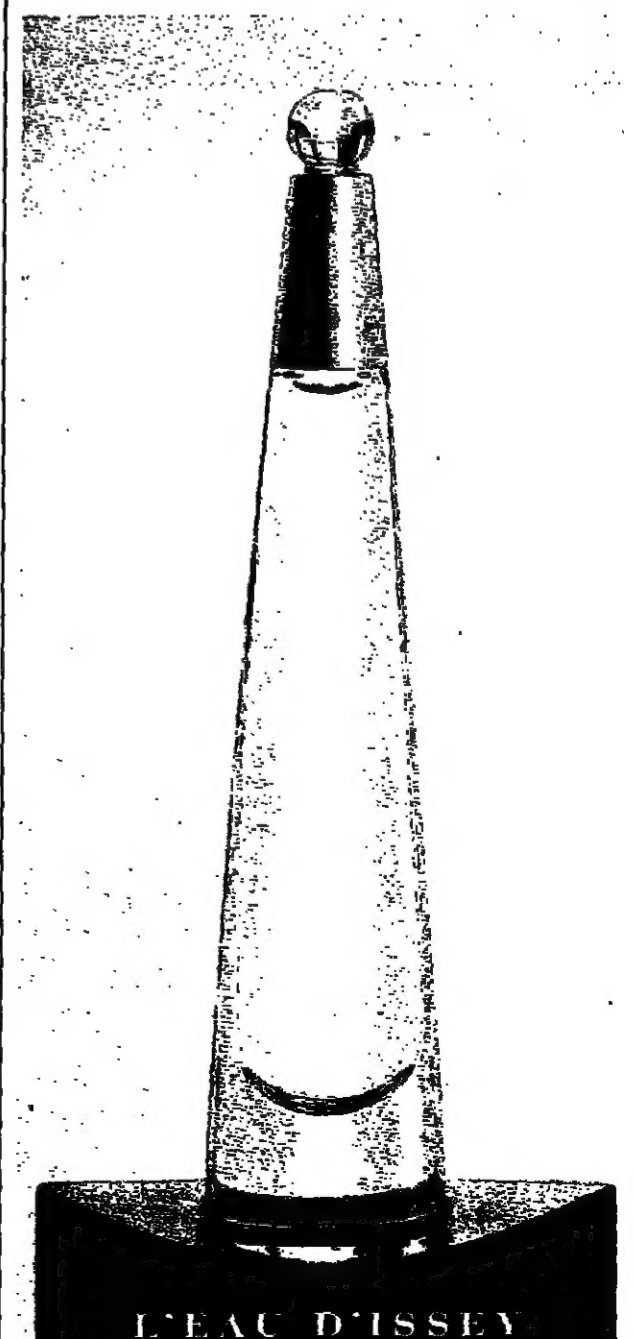
Aileen's mother flew in from America earlier this week to help search for her daughter. Mr and Mrs Boyd are expected to arrive from Germany for a news conference today.

Inspector Brian Lennox, of Strathclyde police, said there had been a number of possible sightings – in Greenock, Stirling and on the island of Arran. At lunchtime on the day of their disappearance, the girls were reportedly seen drinking tea at the near-

by Faslane Peace Camp. The camp does not take in run-aways, he said.

A taxi driver said that he believes he gave them a lift on Saturday night and another unconfirmed sighting had the girls catching a flight to Benidorm.

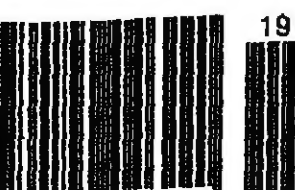
Kirsty Ann is 5ft 4in, with brown hair, which is red at the front, and was wearing jeans and a jacket. Aileen, dressed in baggy denim dungarees, a black and white jumper and black corduroy jacket, is 5ft 3in, with blue eyes and long blonde hair.



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We must break conspiracy of silence on failing schools

Our report on *The Teaching of Reading in 45 London Primary Schools* is the most important document that Ofsted has produced.

It shows that far too many inner-city children are failing to make adequate progress in reading and that many are leaving primary school unable to cope with the demand of the secondary school curriculum. The explanation for this unacceptable state of affairs lies in the fact that much teaching is "mediocre and weak".

The report deserves to be studied with the utmost care by all involved in education. Its messages are too important to be ignored. The reaction thus far has, however, been defensive and obfuscatory. In the hope, presumably, that the

substantive issues will be ignored, strenuous efforts have been made to criticise the conduct of the inspection.

One criticism is that the first draft of the report bears little resemblance to the final printed version. This is true in the sense that the conclusions are now presented as clearly and dramatically as they deserve to be. For example: "The quality of teaching was unsatisfactory or poor in nearly half of the 166 lessons [observed] in Year 6." This is a bleak, depressing fact and I make no apology for presenting it starkly. But if the accusation is that the substance of the data has been manipulated, then I reject the charge absolutely. There is no question of Ofsted doctoring the evidence.

Why, though, would we

want to manipulate the data? The answer to this, according to Phil Kelly, Islington's education chairman, is that I am seeking "no pander to the prejudices of my political masters".

If by "prejudices" he means the common concern that children are not learning to read, then I plead guilty to drawing this disturbing situation to the attention of politicians of all parties and every parent across the land. My job as H.M. Chief Inspector is to report as clearly and as accurately as I can on the strengths and weaknesses of our schools. I will continue to do just that, whatever the criticisms that come my way.

The reaction, though, of educational leaders such as Mr Kelly is profoundly dis-

Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, insists that Ofsted's indictment of primary reading standards must be honestly addressed



turbing. In that it is hard to take responsibility for what has gone wrong, the psychology of his reaction is understandable. It is nevertheless indefensible. On Islington's own figures, eight out of ten 11-year-olds in the borough's schools have a reading age below their chronological age. Our study confirms these findings.

There are too many within the world of education who want to avoid the substance of what Ofsted is saying. They

pretend that the inspection methodology is flawed, that we distort the data, that whatever the problems all would be well if the Government provided more money for the nation's schools, that even if what we say is true we should not be saying it because it undermines teachers' morale; anything and everything but an honest recognition that there are problems in schools which, in the interests of the individual child and our future prosperity as a country,

need solutions. How can solutions be found until the problems are brought out in the open and acknowledged? It is the acknowledgement which is now the difficulty.

For years a conspiracy of silence has prevented any public discussion of how the education system fails too many young people. Now, systematic school inspection coupled with the publication of test and examination data is revealing, school by school and across the service as a whole, the weaknesses that have to be tackled if England is to have any chance of prosperity in what will be an ever more competitive 21st century.

The problem is that this analysis is rejected by those who wish to pretend that all is

well. It was reported, following their annual conference, that the Secondary Heads' Association is to set up a "counter-propaganda" unit to persuade the public of the successes of state education.

I am 100 per cent behind the celebration of success. That is why I print a list of outstanding schools at the front of my annual report of English education. That is why I have stated repeatedly on radio and television that there are three times as many outstanding as very poor teachers.

The general secretary of the Secondary Heads' Association believes, however, that state education is being undermined by a stream of propaganda "of which Dr Goebbels would have been proud". This beggars belief. I do not for one

moment deny that there are excellent schools. I accept absolutely that everything must be done to bolster teacher morale but I do not think that this is best achieved by putting one's head in the sand.

If Ofsted were to pretend that all is well in schools across the country, we would patronise those many outstanding teachers who are giving their children a first-rate education and abnegate our responsibility to the parents that schools are there to serve.

We shall continue to do our best to report honestly on standards in the belief that, albeit slowly, we may be moving to a time when those who speak for the teaching profession are less defensive than, sadly, they presently are.

Labour to stress role of self-help in welfare state

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will today herald plans for sweeping changes to the welfare state including an overhaul of state pensions and radical measures to help single mothers into work.

In a departure from traditional Labour strategy, Chris Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, will argue for "individual responsibility" to be matched with "community responsibility" for people to be encouraged to make provision for themselves where possible, with help for those in difficulty.

In his speech at Church House, Westminster, Mr Smith is expected to avoid the internal Labour controversy over the future of child benefit for children aged over 16. But he will confirm, as Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, hinted yesterday, that the benefit is being reviewed and that this includes the possibility of it being replaced for older teenagers by educational maintenance grants for the children of poorer families.

Mr Smith, who has conducted a comprehensive review of the welfare system, expects that the changes will not entail additional spending, and that savings will be achieved in the longer term.

Over the next six weeks he will publish documents detailing the main policy changes, focusing on "welfare-to-work", pensions and child support.

One of the more radical ideas is a programme to help single mothers to find and stay in work. Mr Smith has adapted a scheme operating in Australia, where mothers are given guidance and training on how to gain qualifications

and re-enter the job market. They are also given state help with childcare.

Under proposals that Mr Smith is considering, the Benefits Agency would produce similar training, employment and childcare plans for lone parents. Labour would also change benefit rules that discourage lone parents from earning more than £15 a week.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Smith admitted that a Labour government would not be able to offer the same guarantee of childcare as the Australian system in the first stages, but added that efforts would be made to help lone parents to take up places where possible. There are 1.5 million lone parents in Britain; only one-third support themselves. This constitutes a huge burden on the social security budget.

Mr Smith said there would be no compulsion to enter the scheme. However, other party



Smith: puts emphasis on responsibility

sources have suggested that those who refused to take up job offers would face penalties.

The scheme will initially be funded by the £3 billion windfall tax that Labour intends to impose on privatised utilities. The tax will also be used to fund the scheme outlined by Mr Brown last year to get the under-25s into work.

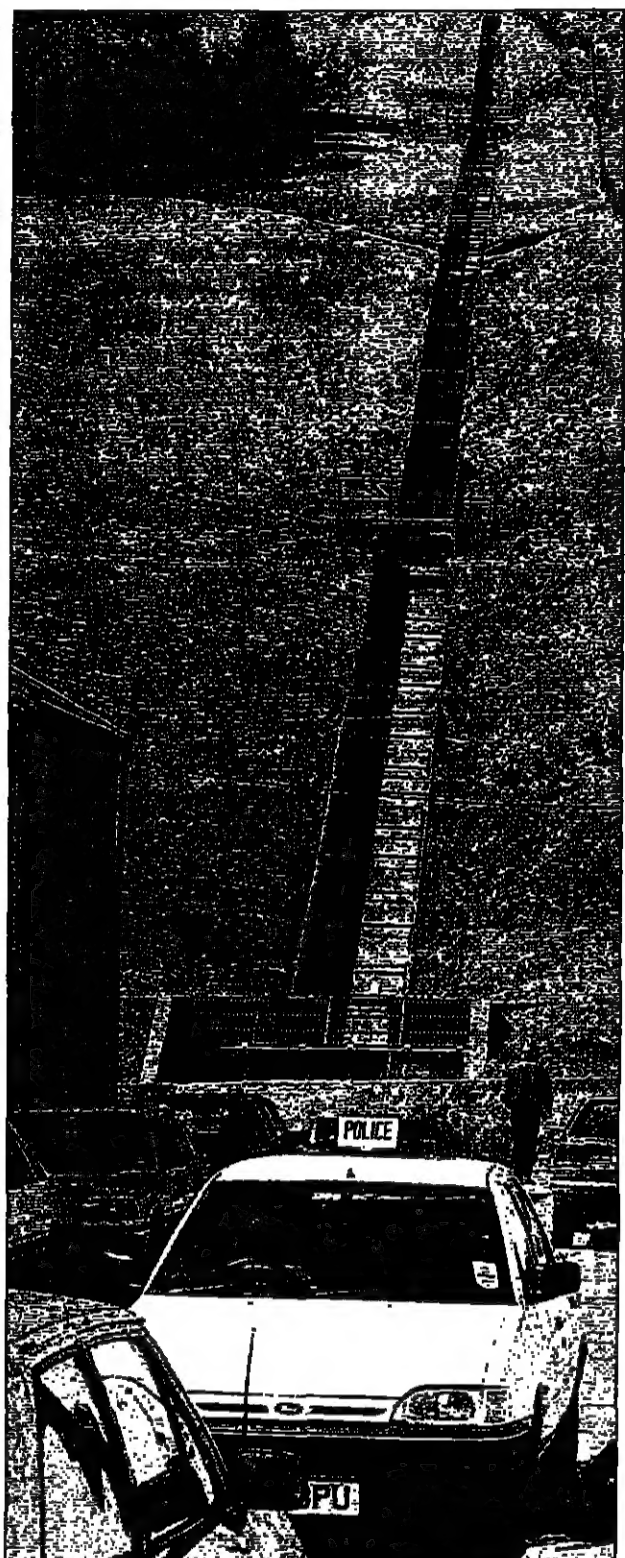
Mr Smith also made clear that Labour intends to reduce the proportion of means-tested benefits, which, he said, has increased since the Conservatives came to power in 1979.

But Mr Smith, a key moderniser in the Shadow Cabinet, will disappoint Labour leftwingers hoping for a substantial rise in benefits for poorer pensioners or children.

It is understood that he has ruled out a guaranteed minimum pension for poorer pensioners, something advocated in the report by the Social Justice Commission set up by the late John Smith and backed by Donald Dewar when he was Shadow Social Security Secretary.

Mr Smith will make clear that pensioners will in future have to supplement their basic state pension with a second pension, based on a compulsory contribution that could be topped up with voluntary contributions. Under the pension plan, insurance companies would be invited to work with trades unions and employers on an alternative to occupational pensions.

Mr Smith is expected to underline the need for hard choices to achieve a more effective welfare system while not adding to the £90 billion social security bill.



The 350ft culvert where the two boys crashed

Boy's head jammed in wall after sled crash

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO schoolboys were critically injured yesterday after hurtling down a 350ft culvert on a makeshift toboggan. One of them had his head jammed in a narrow gap in a concrete wall at the bottom and may have lost a ear.

Michael Routledge, 10, and David Williams, 11, lost control of an old door they were riding at up to 20mph in a dry drainage culvert near the former Marine Colliery in Cwm, Gwent. Gwent police said a heavy metal grille that should have barred the entrance to the culvert had been vandalised.

Neighbours told how the boys' shouts of joy turned to screams. Catherine Gwynne, 21, said: "The scene was just awful. They were both obviously very badly hurt. The ambulances took the one boy away but they had a lot of trouble freeing the trapped lad's head. I held his hand until the rescuers arrived — he was conscious and I kept telling him to squeeze hard on my hand."

Aubrey Price, 64, said: "They must have built up a very fast speed on the door and then lost control. One of the boys had his head jammed in the gap. He must have hit it with some force to get it in there — he was covered in blood. Catherine was holding his hand trying to comfort him while the ambulance arrived but he was in a lot of pain. When the rescuers arrived they had to dig a hole around his head so they could lift him free."

A spokeswoman for Dafydd's family said: "We are all very upset. We've heard Michael is breathing on his own but Dafydd's condition is tough and go."

Loyalist bomb hoax shuts Dublin Airport

Fears that loyalist terrorists are planning to end their ceasefire were heightened yesterday when hardline members of the Ulster Volunteer Force claimed they had planted bombs at Dublin Airport.

The Irish Army carried out a controlled explosion on a suspect car at the airport early yesterday after a bomb warning was phoned to a Belfast newspaper. The Irish Army said that no explosives were found in the car. Police closed off the airport at 10.20pm on Sunday night after a caller from the Mid Ulster brigade of the UVF claimed that two 10lb bombs had been placed on the runway and a third device was in the car. Bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion just before 1.30am. Loyalist politicians later said that the warning had not been sanctioned by the Loyalist Military Command, the umbrella organisation for the three main Protestant terrorist groups.

No joy for Rushdie

The new leader of the self-styled British Muslim Parliament reaffirmed its support for the fatwa on Salman Rushdie. Dr Muhammad Ghayassuddin, 57, said there would be "no joy" for the writer, whose book *The Satanic Verses* has been condemned by Muslims as blasphemous. Dr Ghayassuddin's stance echoes the hard line taken by his predecessor, Dr Kalim Siddiqui, who died on April 18.

Milk van crushes girl

Laura Hawkins, 5, died when she was crushed by a milk delivery van as she played in the street outside her home near Morpeth, Northumberland. Carl Belisle, the milkman, was serving customers at the back of the flatbed vehicle and did not see the girl as he drove off. Her mother, Karen Connors, a nurse, tried to revive her but she was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital on Sunday evening.

Prince's plea on poverty

The Prince of Wales called on governments and individuals to live up to their common responsibility to tackle world poverty in all its forms. He emphasised the need for a more broad-based approach. "The causes of poverty... are not just a matter of economics, and they cannot be solved just by the generosity of more privileged societies," he wrote in the annual report of the development charity Actaid.

Burton 'fell from bike'

Police believe that Beryl Burton, 59, the international cyclist who died while riding near her home in Harrogate on Sunday, was taken ill and fell from her bicycle. There was no damage to her machine and a witness has said she appeared to fall without reason. Burton, of the Morley Cycling Club, was the unbeaten champion of Britain for 25 years and still held a number of national time-trial records.

Brown firm

Continued from page 1
lecture in Edinburgh. The review is also being conducted by Mr Brown and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary. Mr Smith said: "There is a potential option which the review will doubtless consider of transforming child benefit into an education maintenance allowance and trying to direct particular help through that means to families on low incomes."

It is understood that both Mr Smith and Mr Blunkett felt that Mr Brown had not given enough emphasis to the intention to use the money saved from scrapping the benefit to help poorer children.

But Mr Brown was in an uncompromising mood yesterday. He said: "You don't set up a review unless you believe there is something wrong that needs to be sorted out. The status quo is certainly not an option when you look at the crisis that is facing young people. If we don't tackle these problems then we will be failing not just the generation of young people but piling up problems that will haunt us for many years to come."

Educational maintenance allowances are currently paid on a discretionary basis to the parents of children who go on to further education. But the sums vary widely depending on the area in which people live. The idea of expanding it to cover children still at school is in line with Labour thinking on increasing educational opportunities across the board.

While Mr Brown emphasised that no conclusions had been made, the implication of his remarks was that there will be no retreat. Mr Cook, however, laid emphasis on the fact that no decisions had been taken.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, claimed that Labour's plans for welfare reform were in disarray.

Education

Continued from page 1
report. She felt that the report was an "absolutely dreadful" indictment of teachers' ability to teach reading.

Mr Woodhead accuses the boroughs of being "defensive and obfuscatory".

He rejects their claim that he put a negative slant on the inspectors' findings and criticises Phil Kelly, chairman of education in Islington, for trying to avoid Ofsted's criticisms.

Mr Kelly claimed the aims of the inspection had been hijacked by "political priorities". Mr Woodhead found Mr Kelly's reaction "profoundly disturbing".

Mrs Shephard is also likely to strengthen the inspectors' arm in assessing teacher training and local education authorities in problem areas. This would help a planned Ofsted campaign on numeracy in inner city areas.

Today's report, based on inspections of 45 primary schools in the three boroughs, is expected to say that teaching quality was less than satisfactory in one in three lessons, head teachers showed insufficient leadership in one in three schools, and teachers were held back by a lack of knowledge about how to teach children to read.

While the time devoted to teaching children reading was generous, it was not always used to good effect. Children were not given a good enough start in literacy through the use of phonics, the learning of the basic sounds of language.

The poor showing of 11-year-olds in national English tests last summer has prompted Mrs Shephard to bring forward the publication of primary school league tables in an attempt to raise standards.

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Tory rebels threaten to turn beef debate into anti-Europe stampede

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR was facing a fresh threat to his tightrope walk as Tory rebels prepared to use a Commons debate on the common agricultural policy (CAP) to attack the Government's handling of the BSE crisis.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, today warns the rebels to step back into line. "Some high-minded Tories tell us grandly that they are prepared to put country before party and will attack the Government if its policy on the EU does not meet all their aspirations," he says in an article in *The Times*.

"I see nothing for them to be proud of. The effect of their hostility would undermine the present Government and

could allow in Labour." Mr Rifkind adds: "The Tory party must become again a disciplined, highly efficient fighting machine. We are not, and never have been, a debating society."

Government business managers, aware of the risks of the CAP debate, are believed to be planning to turn any vote into one on a technical motion to try to minimise the risks of a defeat only days after the Prime Minister led the pleas for unity.

But MPs on the Left and Right of the party served notice last night that they would not be silenced and stepped up their demands for retaliatory action against Europe. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, will bear the brunt of the anger when he presents a report on

the CAP that will set out the level of subsidies paid to European Union farmers.

Tory rebels have selected the debate because a vote would not be a confidence issue for the Government.

David Nicholson, MP for Taunton and secretary of the Tory backbench agriculture committee, said: "My electors feel strongly that we have been badly let down by Europe. There is great anger out there. I will have to consider my position very carefully. My vote cannot be taken for granted."

John Townend, chairman of the right-wing 92 Group of Tory MPs, said: "I will be taking soundings from colleagues about the vote. It is not in anyone's interests to have guerrilla warfare which could cost the Government the elec-

tion. But it is not only Eurosceptics who are demanding tough action on beef."

Mr Townend proposes sanctions against the EU. "We should ban their beef. If that fails, exclude their livestock. The third would be to stop their money."

Paddy Ashdown, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, accused the Eurosceptics of misrepresenting the BSE crisis to reopen the question of Britain's membership of the EU. "This has been brought about by catastrophically weak leadership at the top. The Government has totally mishandled this whole BSE thing from start to finish," he told BBC Radio's *Today*.

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Trade seeks to end slaughter deadlock

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

SLAUGHTERHOUSE operators and livestock auctioneers are to meet Tony Baldry, the Junior Agriculture Minister, today to try to break the deadlock over the slaughter and disposal of cattle over 30 months old.

Government ministers are also to hold talks later in the week with veterinary surgeons over their refusal to help to identify cattle under this age unless they

are paid to carry out proper checks on the animals. Bob Stevenson, president of the British Veterinary Association, said yesterday that government "penny-pinching" was threatening to undermine assurances that only animals under 30 months old, which scientists regard as the least likely to be infected with "mad cow" disease, were being killed for food.

"We are being asked to sign, effectively to rubber-stamp, evidence produced by farmers without having a chance to see

the animals," he said. "Farm records are notoriously unreliable."

The vets' protest comes amid continuing disagreements between the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers, abattoir owners and livestock auctioneers which are delaying the slaughter and disposal of tens of thousands of over-age cattle. Mr Baldry will meet abattoir owners and auctioneers today to answer complaints that there has been inadequate guidance from the Government.

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Condon asks court to set limits on damages payouts

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal is to be asked to set guidelines for juries on the level of damages awarded against the police after recent cases against Scotland Yard reached six figures.

Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, wants judges to lay down guidance for juries on the size of damages in civil cases against the police in the same way as they have for libel payments against newspapers. "Awards in libel cases went stratospheric and out of control," he told *The Times*. "We are seeing similar developments around cases against the police."

Sir Paul claimed that juries were being influenced by previous cases in which big cash sums had been awarded and left them to make a similar award.

In 1995 Scotland Yard paid out £1.5 million in damages compared with £393,000 in 1994. Awards and costs for civil actions have cost the Metropolitan Police £20 million in the past ten years.

Lawyers for the Metropolitan Police have been ordered to challenge four recent cases including the record £302,000 award to Daniel Goswell and the earlier record of £220,000 to Kenneth Hsu, of Tulse Hill, south London. Mr Goswell, 29, from Woolwich, southeast



Goswell was awarded record sum last month

London, received his payment after he was hit over the head with a truncheon and needed five stitches to a wound. He had been sitting in his car waiting for his girlfriend when police handcuffed him. Mr Goswell was acquitted on two charges of assaulting the police but found guilty of threatening behaviour.

Mr Hsu, 32, a hairdresser, received his award after the jury decided that he had been assaulted by police and wrongfully arrested, suffering extensive bruising to his back and kidneys.

Andrew Kownacki, a trainee manager at a west London public house, was awarded £108,750 last week. He had been falsely accused of drugs offences. Terence Winyard, 21, was awarded £64,000, including £50,000 exemplary dam-

ages, in March for assault, wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. None of the officers in the case has been disciplined, and one has been promoted to superintendent.

The Commissioner hopes that, on appeal, judges will cut the damages in all four cases. However, he is not seeking to end the practice of juries hearing civil cases against the police and to reduce the availability of legal aid to claimants.

Sir Paul said: "Juries think that because this [Scotland Yard] is a big organisation it does not matter. They think of daft figures. I suspect cases are feeding off each other."

The Commissioner also said that lawyers had switched their focus from pursuing complaints against the police to civil litigation in which their clients received legal aid. "What we have had is cases five, or six or seven years old, some of which had very little significance at the time. There were no complaints against police, no action."

He added: "These are old cases, exploiting the different burden of proof between civil and criminal cases. They were minor incidents which have been speculatively given a run on legal aid. In some cases the police have been seen as a soft touch."

Letters, page 17

Prisons chief wants inmates to do adventure training

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE new Chief Inspector of Prisons today urges the Home Secretary to ease restrictions on temporary release from jails to enable prisoners to go on adventure training courses.

Sir David Ramsbotham, a former Adjutant General of the Army, calls on Michael Howard to allow prison governors greater flexibility in allowing inmates to take part in challenging experiences.

His support for prisoners being given the opportunity to join adventurous expeditions in Britain threaten to cause further tension in his relationship with Mr Howard.

But Sir David, 61, is a strong believer in allowing prisoners, and especially offenders aged 17 to 21, the chance to test themselves in trying conditions in areas such as Snowdonia and the Cairngorms. He said that allowing inmates to take part in adventure training had been hap-

pening before Mr Howard introduced restrictions on home leave and temporary release in April last year.

"We already know enough about challenging behaviour by adventure training. I believe it would be helpful if he did restore the right of the governors to allow some of that [temporary release] to be reinstituted, with the governor taking the risk."

Sir David said he knew the value of outdoor adventure training from his years in the Army. Prisoners would be challenged and made to ask questions of themselves.

Sir David, who has visited about 30 of the 135 jails in England and Wales since becoming chief inspector in November, said much more needed to be done in young offender institutions to prevent youngsters becoming lifetime criminals. "This is a critical time in their lives. If we

don't do something then and there they are going to be customers of the Prison Service for the rest of their lives."

Sir David's call for an easing on temporary release is unlikely to be welcomed at the Home Office, which brought in restrictions after a series of incidents in which prisoners committed further offences while on leave or absconded.

His support for more prisoners to be allowed to go on adventure training schemes is also unlikely to be received favourably. Ministers have been critical of prisoners and other offenders doing such activities, which some members of the public see as rewarding criminal behaviour.

A Prison Service spokesman said last night: "There should be good grounds for release. Adventure activities are possible in areas where the granting of temporary licences have been tightened."



A young visitor getting a closer look at the air display, which included the Spitfire's great rival, the Messerschmitt. Up to 35,000 attended the show

Spirit of the Spitfire defeats jams

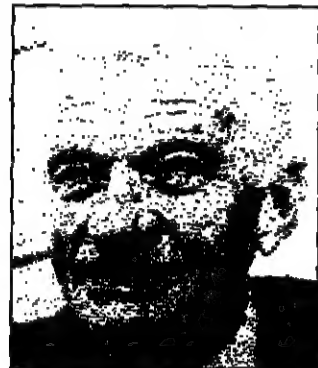
By JOHN SHAW

THE Second World War flying ace "Johnnie" Johnson fought his way through traffic jams yesterday to join a tribute to the Spitfire. He jumped from the car carrying him and tramped along the roadside for 1½ miles to start the flying at the Spitfire diamond jubilee airshow.

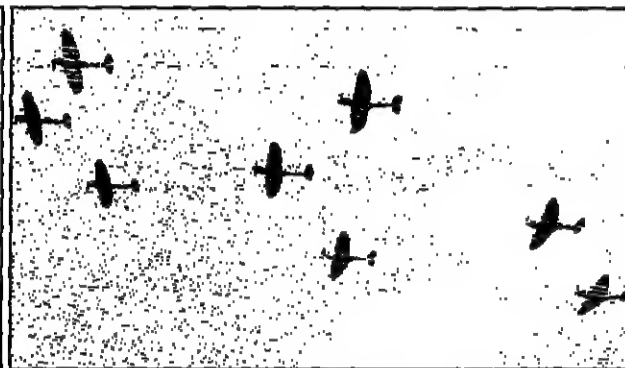
Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, 80, the top-scoring Allied fighter pilot of the Second World War, was caught in the jams that clogged all roads to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire police put up signs saying the airfield was full and tried to turn spectators away, but they pulled in and enjoyed roadside picnics while watching the flyings through binoculars.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson said the response to the sixtieth anniversary of the Spitfire's first flight showed that it had achieved "a kind of immortality with the public as the aircraft that helped people to gain their freedom". Org-



Air Vice-Marshal "Johnnie" Johnson and the final flypast by nine Spitfires



anisers estimated the crowd at 30,000 to 35,000.

The classic fighter entered RAF service with 19 Squadron at Duxford in August 1938. A total of 25 Spitfires from Mark I to Mark XXIV were on show yesterday. There are thought to be about 47 left in the world. The highlight was a formation of 16 Spitfires and the proceedings were concluded with a flypast by nine to *Land of Hope and Glory*.

The sight and sound of the planes brought back memo-

ries for many of the grey-haired men watching from the VIP enclosure. Wing Commander Tim Vigors, of Newmarket, Suffolk, recalled taking off from the grassy strip at Duxford in 1940. "I flew 123 different types of aircraft during my career, including Concorde, and I always rated the Spit the top of the lot. It was something special. Everybody felt the same way in my squadron."

"There were 29 of us who came down from Kirton in

Lindsey, near Lincoln, for the Battle of Britain and, apart from a few who were transferred, I was the only one left by the time it finished."

Among those watching the acrobatics by Spitfires and other veterans, including the Messerschmitt, was Dr Gordon Mitchell, 75, son of Reginald Mitchell, the Spitfire's designer. He said: "My father thought the Spitfire was OK but I don't think he appreciated what it would go on to become."

Leave relic, say wartime comrades

THE remains of a Spitfire flown by Sir Douglas Bader should be left where it fell, Air Vice-Marshal James "Johnnie" Johnson said yesterday.

The former pilot, who was in the battle that ended Bader's war, said: "Leave the thing alone. It will only be bits, like something out of a second-hand shop. Better to leave it alone." Wing Commander Tim Vigors, another Spitfire veteran, backed him, saying: "Leave it alone."

Bader's plane was excavated from in a field near St Omer, France, at the weekend by a group led by Dilip Sarkar, 34, a West Mercia policeman. He wants the engine to be cleaned and displayed at Tangmere, West Sussex, Bader's final base. Air Vice-Marshal Johnson says that if it must be displayed it should be in the RAF Museum in Hendon or at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, Cambridgeshire.

Seaside resorts hotly dispute chilly forecasts

By A STAFF REPORTER

UNEXPECTED sunshine brought out Bank Holiday crowds—and brickbats for the forecasters. Resorts said that the mainly dry and sunny weekend would have been even busier if many people had not stayed at home after predictions of chilly and cloudy conditions.

Weather centres admitted that the holiday was brighter than expected but said that temperatures were far from sunny. In Oxfordshire and the Midlands, overnight temperatures

dropped to -3C (27F) and other areas reported frost.

Heavy traffic was reported around Torquay, Brighton, the Peak District and the East Anglian coast. In Essex, Terry McKean, head of Clacton-on-Sea Hotel, Guest House and Restaurant Association, said that several sporting events in the town had made up for people put off by predictions of cold and showery weather.

Margaret Horler, president of the Hotels Association in Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, joined in the criticism

of forecasters: "At the beginning of last week they were predicting all doom and gloom, yet people have been sitting out on their balconies in the sun since before 7.45 this morning."

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre said that temperatures had been about 14C (57F) in the South West and 10C (50F) in the North. This time last year, he said, the country celebrated VE-Day in a sweltering 26C (79F). Forecasts had not been too far out. "It has perhaps been brighter than we expected. There's been less cloud

and the wind hasn't picked up as much as we thought it might. We're not overly unhappy with what we were predicting."

Gatwick said that 245,380 passengers passed through between Friday and Monday, a 10 per cent increase on last year. Popular destinations included Dublin, Jersey, Malaga and Orlando. Heathrow also reported traffic up on last year, with an estimated 560,000 passengers over the four-day break.

Forecast, page 20

Campbell's soupçon of excitement for fashionable palate

By JOE JOSEPH

NAOMI CAMPBELL has made something of a specialty of tardiness. But when she turns up 40 minutes late to launch her own restaurant, potential diners naturally take it as a bad omen and start wondering how long they will be kept waiting, chez Naomi.

before even their antipasto reaches their table. Capitalising on the traditional lack of rival news attractions on a Bank Holiday, beyond weather and traffic-jam reports, Miss Campbell's advisers chose yesterday for a ground-breaking ceremony to herald London's Fashion Café.

The pneumatic drill—with Fashion Café logo—was there at the agreed hour. A wall of fake breeze blocks, through which Miss Campbell would emerge into the waiting crowds of Leicester Square, was in place. Miss Campbell, though, was absent. "She's not ready yet," a spokesman said, appalled at the impatience of the 30 bored photographers and camera crews.

The police, who seemed to feel they should be chasing criminals rather than marshalling crowds for an unpunctual model, were also growing testy as passers-by asked who the crowd was waiting for. Eventually one constable snapped: "It's Harry Secombe. It's a Bank Holiday *Songs Of Praise* special."

When she finally appeared, in jeans and a navel-baring white T-shirt, Miss Campbell squeaked: "We expect to be open in mid-summer when we look forward to seeing you

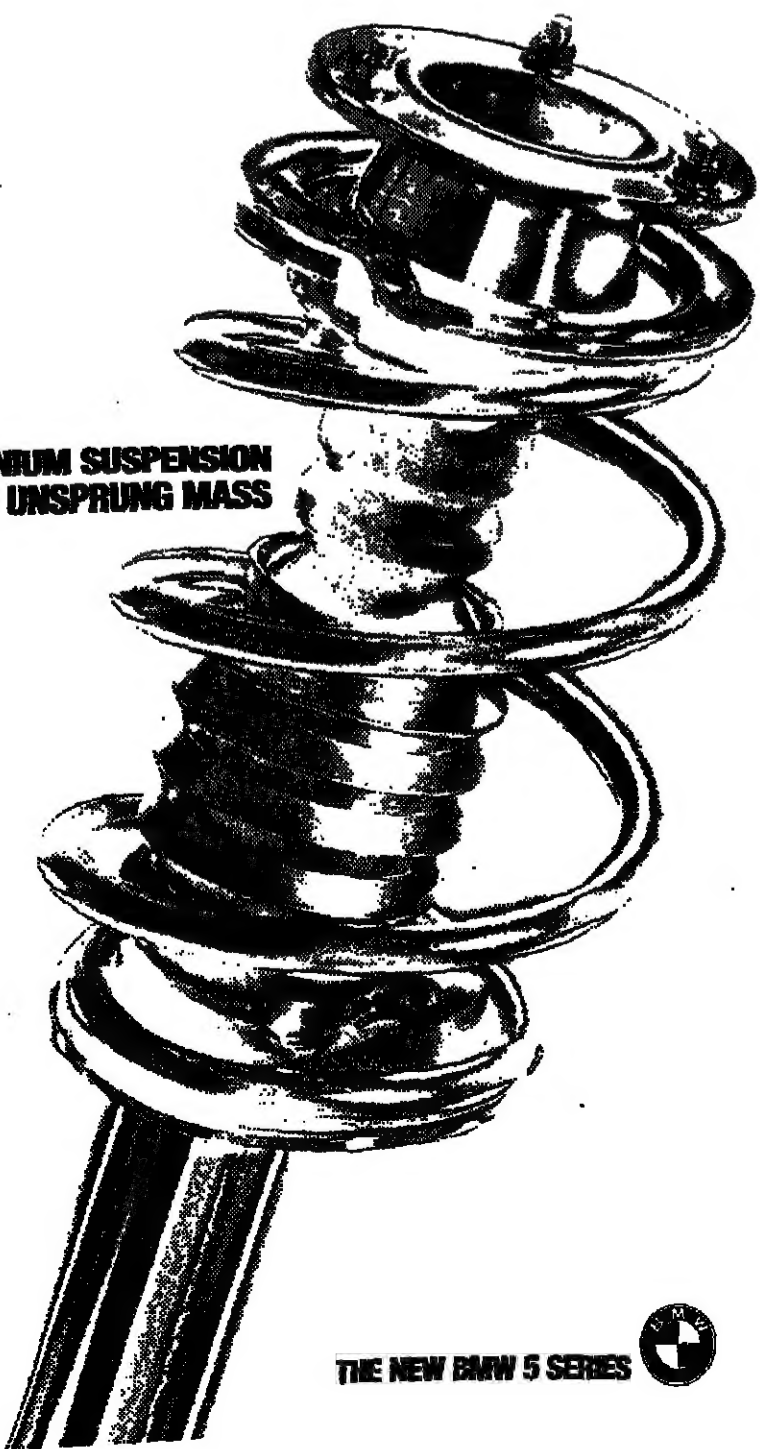
then." Then she pointed her hips at the cameras and left.

Miss Campbell, with her fellow catwalk queens Elle Macpherson, Claudia Schiffer and Christy Turlington, opened the first Fashion Café in New York. A branch in New Orleans followed.

A British restaurant critic who ate at the New York venue—under the gaze of such fashion props as Madonna's gold bustier—said the sauce that bathed his Fashion Crab Cakes reminded him "of a bad mood in the summer when I greedily swigged from a bottle of very old milk".

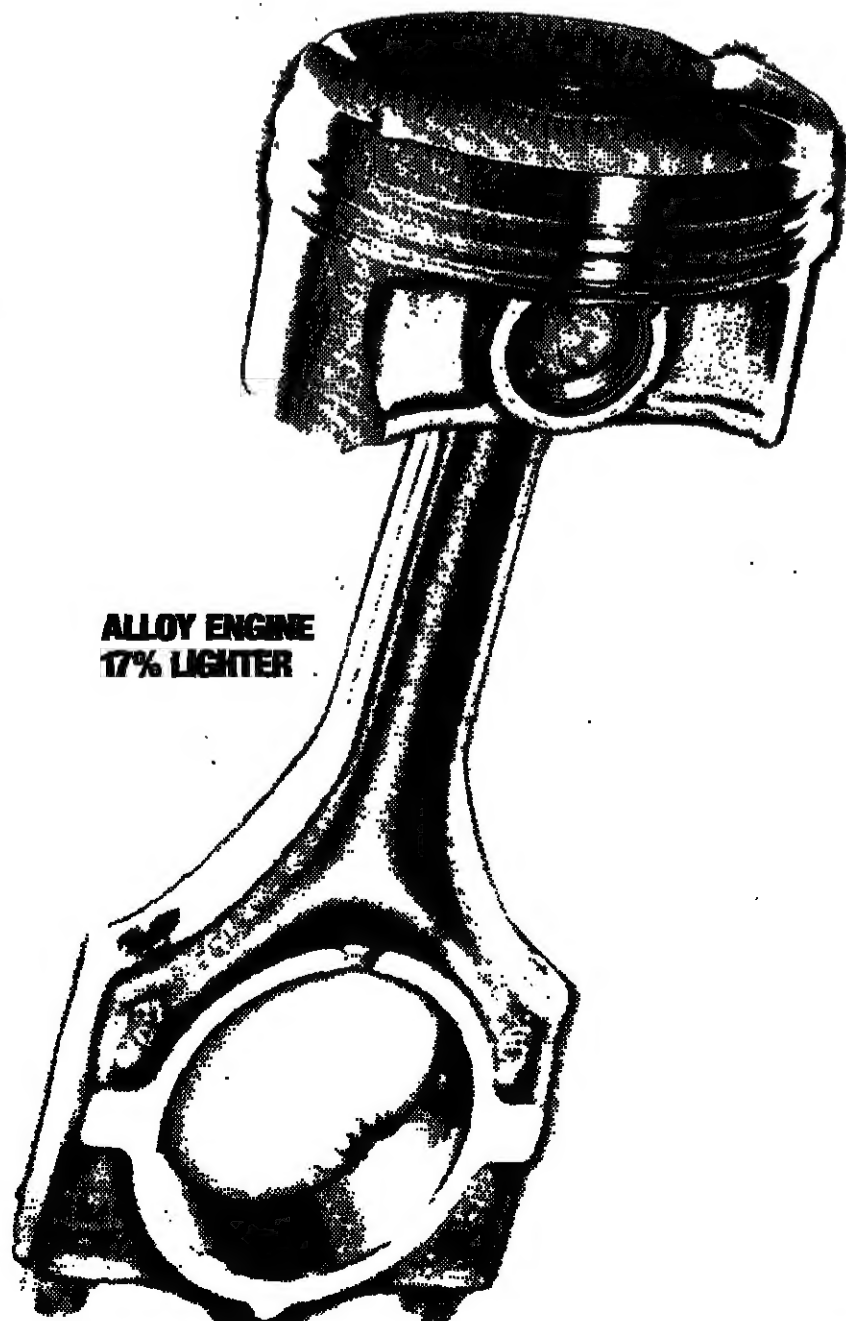


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Families fight closure of 'cannibal larder' school

By LIN JENKINS

PARENTS descended on an independent school yesterday to confront the chairman of the governors after receiving letters telling them it was closing after 146 years.

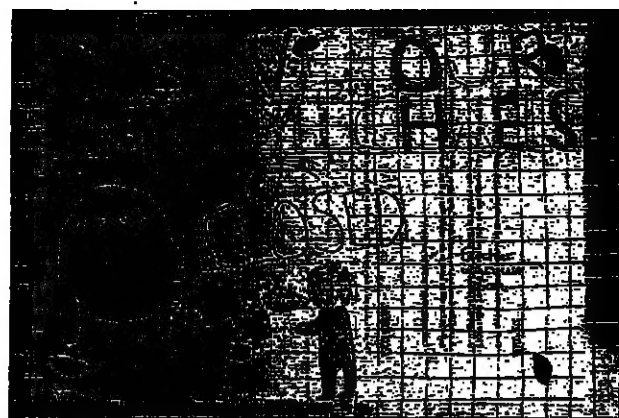
St Michael's School in Limpsfield, Surrey, which has 153 pupils — 69 of them boarders — and 40 teachers will be sold after the term ends, governors decided. They took the decision on March 20 after finding they would have 60 fewer pupils than needed to be financially viable next year, but kept the news from parents.

Beth Boateng, the daughter of Labour's legal affairs spokesman, is in the upper school. Former pupils include Anneka Rice, the television presenter.

Many parents were particularly upset as the school, which has a handful of boys, is rare in the private sector in catering for children with special needs alongside those who are academically gifted.

Fees are up to £10,000 a year for boarders and up to £6,000 for day pupils.

The Church Missionary Society founded the school in



A pupil's poster protesting at the school's closure

1850 and before the Second World War it was known as the "cannibal larder" for producing so many missionaries. Estate agents are due to start drawing up particulars for sale on Thursday of the Victorian Gothic building set in 23 acres of prime green belt.

The school faced financial difficulties after Brian Long, a former head, was convicted in 1991 of stealing £13,000 from the chapel organ fund to pay the deposit on his home. The financial position improved

under the headship of Margaret Hustler, who is moving to Harrogate Ladies' College in September. One parent, Robin Masfield, a civil servant, said that when Dr Hustler announced she was leaving the governors "classically failed to maintain the momentum and reassure parents", leading to some pupils leaving.

Parents say that with proper marketing they could cover the shortfall in numbers and come up with a rescue package, although they are angry

at being presented with a fait accompli. Neil Saunders asked the parents' meeting if the trustees were not under a legal obligation to keep the school open. "What we have seen is the cynical manipulation of children with the end objective of liquidising millions of pounds worth of assets," he said. The site was valued for accounting purposes last June at £2 million but parents believe the site to be worth £10 million.

Trevor Cooper, chairman of the school's society, whose daughter Stephanie, 7, has been there for two years, said: "It has a wonderful special needs unit. It is not just a school for fat cats. It has a godly approach."

Joe Holmes, a dentist from Epsom, whose daughter Gina, 7, adores the school, said: "We feel we've been given no time. We are convinced we can save the school and it is unique in what it offers. It would be a crime to let it close."

Dr Hustler said she was in tears for five minutes before leading a service in the school chapel to mark the announcement. "It is like a large family here and nobody wants to see



Parents of children at St Michael's School, which they say is "criminal to close", and believe could be saved

their family scattered. It is not my decision but it is one I support and understand."

Christopher Everett, chairman of the governors, said that the school had tried to change its green-belt designation to get planning consent but had been refused. It did, however, have permission to build 11 dwellings at the junior

school. He defended the decision to keep news of the closure from the parents. "We wanted an orderly closure," he said, adding that had the news leaked out earlier it might have shut over Easter.

Profits from the sale will revert to the Church Missionary Society in accordance with the articles of the company set

up with charitable status to run the school in 1953.

Girls' schools in rural areas proved the biggest casualties of the recession that affected independent education at the end of the last decade.

Many traditional girls-only boarding schools merged with a nearby boys' school or prep school or took day pupils, but

in more isolated areas this was not possible and dozens of schools were shut. In 1990, at the height of the recession, 78 independent schools closed while about 50 opened.

In recent years, more schools have opened each year than closed but single-sex boarding schools are still at the greatest risk.

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Parents sue over failure to identify learning problem

By JOANNA BALE

A GROUP of 24 parents are to sue a local education authority for negligence in allegedly failing to identify their children's learning difficulties at an early age.

A lawyer acting for the parents in Leicestershire disclosed that some of the children had even tried to kill themselves because their lives became so difficult when their problems went unrecognised. Keith Lawson-West has helped the families to win legal aid for their case against the county education authority and is now waiting for psychologists' reports before deciding the next step.

Many of the cases date back nine years and concern children who needed special educational provisions for conditions such as dyslexia.

Julie Billingham, one of the parents, said yesterday that

she had spent nine years trying to persuade teachers that her daughter Gail, now 16, needed specialist attention.

Mrs Billingham, 37, who was successful when she took the case to the local government ombudsman, said: "I was telling teachers since she was five that she had a learning difficulty and she was not reading properly but they just said that she would catch up eventually. Nothing was done until she was state-ment for special needs at 13 and diagnosed as dyslexic at 14. She has a variety of learning difficulties, such as short-term memory problems, and should have been at a special school from an early age."

Mrs Billingham explained that Gail twice tried to take an overdose at 13 after being bullied at her comprehensive school. "She has had a rough time. Everyone called her 'stupid' and she has a low self-esteem as a result."

In spite of having a reading age of seven, she left school with four low-grade GCSEs after having specialist examinations in which a teacher read out the questions and wrote down the answers for her. The Billinghams' three other children have no learning difficulties.

Mrs Billingham added: "We think teachers are the experts and if we disagree, we don't know where to go. Gail never caused any trouble at school so they were quite happy to have her there even though she was constantly struggling with the work."

Mr Lawson-West said: "We will claim the authority failed to identify many of the children's problems and failed to provide adequate special education to help them." He added that some children suffering from dyslexia were not diagnosed until they were between 10 and 15 years old.

A county council spokesman acknowledged that letters indicating the parents' intention to take legal action had been received.

Bill soars for voucher publicity

THE cost of advertising nursery vouchers in the scheme's pilot areas is running 50 per cent over budget at £1.1 million. A fifth of parents in Norfolk and the London boroughs of Wandsworth, Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea have not yet applied (David Charter writes).

The scheme, offering parents of four-year-olds £1,100 vouchers, began last month and is to be extended across the country next April. In parliamentary written answers, Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said there had been "unexpectedly high demand for information outside the pilot areas". David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, said the spending on publicity equated to £417 for every place created. "It would be hard to conceive a more convoluted way of promoting an expansion of nursery provision."

Pill offers cure for male impotence

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A PILL to boost the sexual performance of flagging males could be on the market in two years, researchers said yesterday. The first treatment for impotence in a pill, sildenafil, claims to "enhance the normal sexual response".

Results of the first trials of the drug, discovered in Britain, were presented at the American Urological Association annual meeting in Orlando, Florida, yesterday.

Among 350 men in Bristol, Belfast, France and Sweden who used it for four weeks, nine out of ten on the highest dose reported better erections compared with four out of ten given a placebo. Two smaller studies had similar findings.

Tom Lue, Professor of Urology at the University of

California, San Francisco, said: "If further clinical trials prove its safety and efficacy, it may be a dream come true for many patients who are looking for a magic pill to improve their erection."

The pill is taken an hour before sex is planned and works by enhancing the natural response to sexual stimulation. It does not automatically trigger an erection. The pill is not an aphrodisiac but acts by blocking the effect of an enzyme, phosphodiesterase-5, effectively increasing the blood flow to the penis.

Sildenafil was originally investigated as a possible treatment for heart problems. Although it had little effect on the cardiovascular system, male volunteers reported an unexpected and pleasing side-effect.

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Antarctic museum retraces intrigue in a cold climate

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

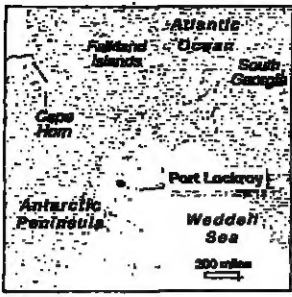
BRITAIN'S most remote museum, where the exhibits include tins of pelican meat and a 1940s radio transmitter, has opened to visitors.

Directors of the Victoria and Albert and other renowned museums are unlikely to lose significant market share to the new rival. The Port Lockroy museum chronicles a thrilling and secret Second World War operation, but its location is hardly visitor-friendly.

Penguins and seal colonies will be more common sights than human beings to the curator. The organisers are convinced, however, that Port Lockroy in Antarctica will attract thousands of people during the continent's short tourist season in January and February.

Ian Collinge, of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, said yesterday that the museum's location was one of the most scenic on the Antarctic peninsula and attracted more than 30 cruise ships and yachts a year.

The decision to open Port Lockroy to the public as Britain's first heritage site in Antarctica illustrates its importance in British Antarctic affairs. It was set up by a team of scientists on the instructions of the Admiralty in 1944 to spy on enemy shipping in the South Atlantic. The operation, called Tabarin after a Paris



nightclub, was also intended to consolidate Britain's presence south of the Falklands. Stamps were issued and a network of Post Offices, magistrates' courts and wireless stations was established in Antarctica.

Port Lockroy fell into disrepair after the scientists left in 1962. Last year, however, a team was dispatched on HMS Endurance to begin repairs and to find and conserve artefacts.

The team, led by Dave Burdett and backed by the recently established United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust and the Foreign Office, discovered that much of the equipment had been removed. What was left has been preserved for visitors.

Mr Burdett, who works for Lincolnshire County Council and is a veteran of British Antarctic Survey missions, said yesterday that when they arrived they discovered that "a great deal had been looted and that the roof was stove in". Among the provisions that

have survived are dried vegetables, including potatoes and peas made by the packing company Andrew Lusk. Mr Burdett said that the tins of tomatoes had exploded, but tins of pelican meat and corned beef and hearty drinks such as Bovril were intact. "It's a bit like stepping back into an original 1950s food cupboard," Mr Collinge said.

The central building, which is called Bransfield House, has a small bathroom, a darkroom, a lounge, a bunk room, kitchen, base office and commander's office. Near by is a boat shed.

Mr Burdett said the original buildings had used limpet shells as flooring. Whale bones litter the surrounding area. In the early part of the century, whaling boats would anchor on the peninsula to catch species including humpbacks.

A coal-fired stove, called an Effie, remains as does a radio set from 1944. Another heating stove, called Slow But Sure, was found in pieces but has been restored. The base's original generator, used for radio transmissions and lighting, has been preserved.

Pictures and wall plaques detailing Operation Tabarin and scientific research which paved the way to the discovery of the ozone hole and links between man-made pollution and global warming have also been put up. Mr Collinge said that the team was astonished at how well some of the fabric of the wooden huts had survived.

The original 1940s window frames, supplied by the British manufacturer Boulton and Paul, were in such good condition that they needed only a "scrape and a lick of paint", he said.

Four former British bases in Antarctica have been listed as heritage sites. The others will be at Argentine Island, Horseshoe Island and Stonington Island.

New Zealand has designated the Scott and Shackleton huts at McMurdo Sound, on the other side of Antarctica, as heritage sites. The United States has earmarked its base at Stonington Island for similar treatment.



Tennah Cole, who survived a 250-mile trek through jungle after being shot



An X-ray showing the bullet in Tenneh's skull

Help for girl with bullet in her skull

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A GIRL aged five is to be flown to Britain this week to have a bullet removed from her brain 16 months after she was shot.

Tennah Cole's condition came to light after a three-month, 250-mile journey on foot through the jungle of Sierra Leone. When doctors X-rayed her head to discover why her speech was slurred they found a bullet from an AK47 rifle lodged behind her right eye. Until then it was thought she had fallen and banged her head.

The doctors said she would die unless she could be treated. However, they said there was nothing they could do for her.

The charity Hope and Homes for Children, set up to care for orphans of the civil

war in Sierra Leone, has arranged to fly her to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital on Thursday. Geoffrey Cheney, consultant oral and maxillofacial surgeon, said: "Her injury is incompatible with life. If the bullet didn't kill her outright you would have expected infection to have done so."

Tennah was discovered alone and crying in January last year by Malomoh Cole and his wife Mariama, who were fleeing from warring rebels. Four days later Mr Cole saw Tennah collapse with blood pouring from her head. A few days later her condition worsened and Mr Cole surrendered to rebel forces to get medical help. He was tortured but eventually escaped. When they finally reached Freetown, a doctor examined Tennah and the full extent of her injury was discovered.

Lottery cash will aid rural crafts revival

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE living in rural communities will soon be able to apply for grants to learn such crafts as thatching and smithing as part of plans from the Millennium Commission to award National Lottery cash to individuals.

Lottery grants, to be known as Millennium Awards and worth a minimum of £2,000 each, are also expected to be made available to the growing army of retired people who want to learn new skills, to youth group leaders and to urban farmers.

The Millennium Commission, one of the five good causes benefiting from

lottery funds, is expecting to receive at least a hundred proposals today from organisations wanting to run Millennium Awards schemes on behalf of the commission. The deadline for applications closes tonight.

Mark Ereira, head of development at the rural community charity Suffolk Acres, said the grants could be used to help to revive ancient rural skills and bring long-term benefit to villages and local communities. "People could learn stillwalking or juggling, enabling them to put on a village festival, which in turn could boost tourism and the local economy. They could learn thatching, iron-mongery, carpentry or horticulture and then set up co-opera-

tives or enterprises in their villages."

Nigel Haynes, of the Alliance, an umbrella organisation of youth groups, wants to use his proposed Millennium Awards scheme to help to train young people to be community leaders, particularly in deprived urban areas. "Someone might use an award to learn the skills they need to run an inner-city farm," he said.

"It may be great for lottery money to be going to things such as the Royal Opera House, but these Millennium Awards will really be helping a sector which doesn't see the benefits of lottery spending," Mr Haynes said.

Andrea Kellimanson, director of the Volunteer Centre, a national charity

established to boost voluntary work, said: "Our awards scheme will be aimed at trying to bring five under-represented groups into the voluntary sector — teenagers, people aged over 65, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and the unemployed."

Joe Heart, director of the Multi-Cultural Media Centre in London, wants to run a Millennium Awards scheme to enable more people from ethnic minorities to work in the media.

The commission, which is providing up to £20 million annually for the awards to the end of 2000, in addition to a £100 million lump sum investment thereafter, hopes to authorise the first grants by the autumn.



The base at Port Lockroy was abandoned in 1962

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Scrubbing-brush army defeats invasion of oil



The treacherous spillage was up to eight inches deep

Jobless reclaim Welsh coast from tanker spill

By Bill Frost

AN ARMY of workers on the west Wales coastline are claiming a victory over what might have been environmental disaster. With the help of tide and winds, Pembrokeshire's jobless have all but cleaned their shores of the 76,000 tonnes of light crude oil shed by the tanker *Sea Empress*.

They have saved protected wildlife sites, the lucrative tourism industry and, in a few weeks' time, will secure again the livelihood of many fishermen kept in port since the disaster.

At least 120 miles of coastline were oiled when the vessel breached her hull last February as she ran aground on the approaches to Milford Haven. "We could not imagine a single event which would cause so much damage," the Countryside Council for Wales, the government wildlife conservation body, said. Such fears now appear to have been groundless. The thick chocolate mousse of oil that blighted the coastline has been dispersed.

Kevin Colcomb, a marine pollution specialist who leads the Joint Response Centre in Milford Haven, says there is no longer any justification for the doomsday predictions made in the wake of the spill. "Some beaches were under

happened and that there were serious environmental consequences. But almost three months on the water and the beaches are almost as clean as they were before the spill."

Mr Colcomb's response centre has co-ordinated the clean-up of 45 beaches so far. At some otherwise inaccessible sites the scrubbers, as they are known, have abseiled down treacherous cliff faces to reach the oil below. Such has been the success of the operation that the centre will close within a fortnight. "The clean-up has been incredibly efficient. I've been in this game a while — I did the *Braer* spill [in the Shetlands, January 1993] — and I am really impressed by what has been achieved," he said.

But he will not predict the long-term impact of the *Sea Empress* spill. "No one can say how this will affect the ecosystem over the coming years, but I stress this is not an environmental Armageddon."

A fishing ban imposed on a huge box of water from Swansea to St David's in the immediate aftermath of the disaster may be lifted soon. Tests on mussels and other shellfish show that the level of "tainting" has dropped to almost nothing. Increasingly clean water has enabled them to purge their systems of oil and to breed once more.

Fishermen who have already claimed almost £250,000 in compensation for lost earnings are impressed at the speed and effectiveness of the clean-up. However, there is simmering resentment over the damage done to the trade.

Willie Phillips, a crab fisherman from Solva, near St David's, has lost "thousands of pounds" from the ban. According to his wife, Jan, he has also lost his good temper. "He's been very grumpy since he was stopped going out fishing. It's not surprising — the sea is his life," she said.

Since the ban came into force in February, Mr Phillips, a fisherman for 45 years, has kept his business alive by buying crab from Fishguard and selling to his usual customers in hotels and restaurants. "If you let the regulars down they go elsewhere. I've got to do it, even though it's pretty close to making a loss."

The last few months have been terrible. The worry has stopped me sleeping. The problem is that even the locals believe that shellfish from these waters are contaminated, though the evidence now points in the other direction.

Tourism on this spectacular coastline was threatened too. Negative images of oiled beaches and thousands of dead sea birds brought a dramatic reduction in early bookings. In recent weeks trade has been picking up. Robin Gwyn of the Wales Tourist Board predicts that the coming season may not be as disastrous as hoteliers feared.

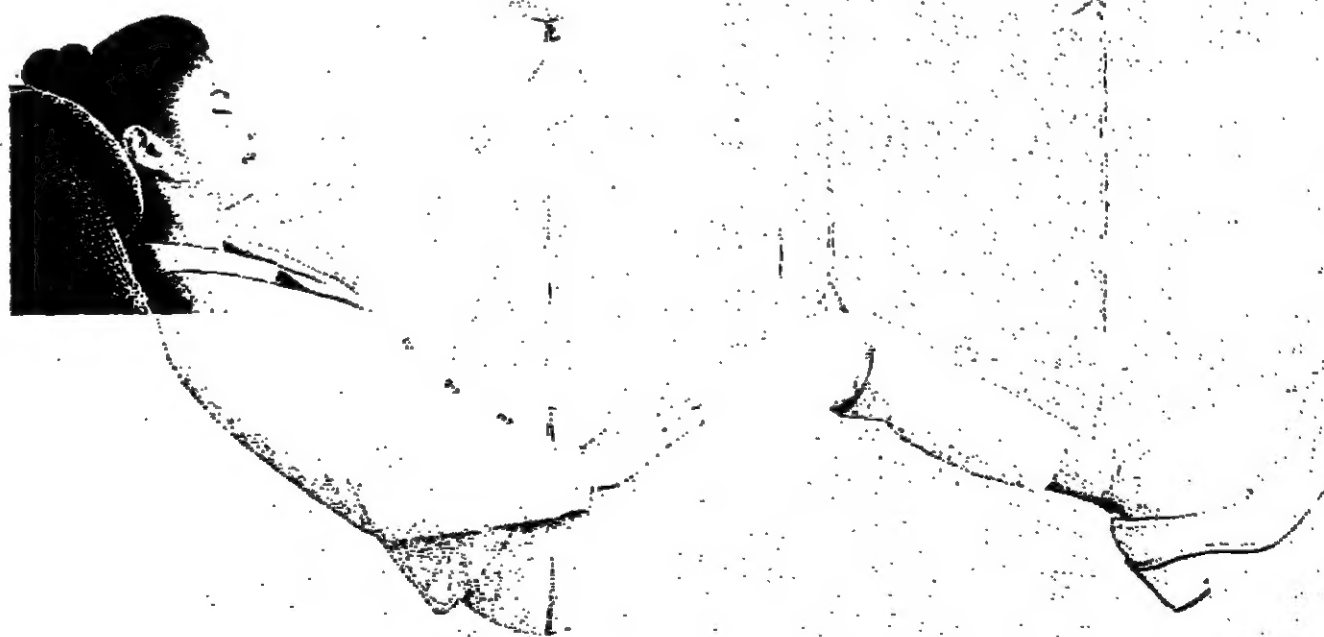
"We have been getting the message across that the clean-up operation is working. The major beaches are clear and the coastline has been cleaned of oil."

Mr Colcomb agrees. "I won't tell you what my first thoughts were when I arrived on the night of the spill. All I can say is that the tides and the world's best experts in this field have averted what might have been a real long-term disaster."



Teams recruited mainly from the unemployed, working painstakingly for up to 12 hours at a time, have restored beaches like the one at Tenby where children now play

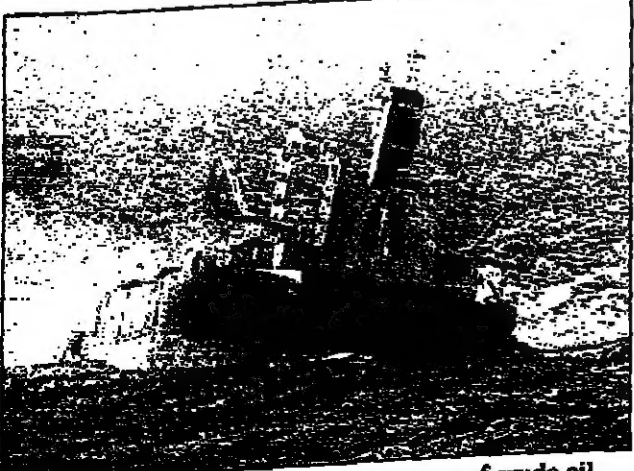
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The *Sea Empress* shed 76,000 tonnes of crude oil

MI5's police role could undermine open justice

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CRIMINAL trials will be at increasing risk of being held in camera or under the cloak of anonymity when the Security Service Bill becomes law, according to lawyers.

The Bill will extend the role of the security services in the investigation of serious crime but a greater use of intelligence officers as witnesses in court may pose a threat to the principle of open justice.

John Wadham, general secretary of Liberty, said: "Already when MI5 is involved in trials its officers give evidence behind screens to protect their anonymity."

Defendants were unable to see their "accusers" and were not on an equal footing with

the prosecution. "It is a fundamental principle of English law that a defendant can see who is accusing him and can confront him," he said. "But none of these undercover officers wishes to be seen or identified."

Gareth Peirce, a solicitor who has defended IRA suspects in a series of trials, said that in recent trials involving intelligence officers an "extraordinary and bizarre melodrama is acted out" in which brown paper is used to screen off the public and the press from any sight of the witness.

"The MI5 officers give evidence from below the dock so the defendant can't see them either," she said. "I consider

Suspects unable to see their accuser

this a breach of the principle of a public trial and therefore of a fair trial. There is a serious question mark over whether any of these trials, conducted in this fashion, have constituted a fair trial."

In a recent case involving Robert Fryers and Thomas Jack, two IRA suspects, the press was unable to make sense of the questioning of witnesses because they could not work out who was asking what questions of whom.

"In the end they had to give up reporting the case. So this is an issue not just about the right to a fair trial but of open justice also," she said. "It is a

matter of concern because it first gives these prosecution witnesses an air of undue importance.

"It also casts a slur on the defendant, suggesting the officer is at risk from the defendant if he is seen."

The Government is already facing a number of challenges in the courts about the way undercover evidence is obtained and used in trials. A test case over police surveillance powers has been lodged in Strasbourg to be heard by the European Court of Human Rights.

Michael Govell, from Leeds, claims his privacy was invaded

by West Yorkshire Police, who drilled a spyhole in the wall of his home. Govell, who is serving a ten-year jail sentence after being convicted of a drug-related offence, discovered the hole when he and his wife moved some furniture while they were decorating.

He subsequently found from estate agents and neighbours that police had occupied the house next door and neighbours had seen photographic equipment and a tripod set up alongside his wall.

He took the police to the High Court, seeking judicial

review of West Yorkshire Police and the Police Complaints Authority, the first time the courts had been asked to consider the legality of surveillance techniques used by detectives. The challenge in 1994 failed and after exhausting all remedies in the British courts Govell has taken the case to Europe.

He alleges that the police tapped his telephone, eavesdropped by drilling a hole in his living-room wall, kept him under surveillance from a neighbouring house and burgled his property.

The law and controls on the use of bugging and listening

devices is confused and shot through with anomalies. Bugging is the subject of 1984 Home Office guidelines but not regulated by statute. By contrast, telephone tapping is subject to the Interception of Communications Act 1985, enacted after a ruling against the Government in a case called *Malone*.

Telephone tapping requires a warrant from the Secretary of State. Mr Wadham said: "The regulations vary according to who is doing the listening. You can use the evidence from a bug placed by the police in a criminal trial as direct evidence from the individual that they committed the crime."

"The police would also like to have evidence from tele-

phone taps used, which at present is not allowed."

But some lawyers believe the statutory controls on MI5, which give authority to the executive over bugging devices, are inadequate. "The police are at least subject to a degree of accountability which will be totally lacking in relation to the members of the security service who will be involved in the prevention and detection of crime," Mr Wadham said.

"Our view is that there should be no invasion of privacy of an individual without permission having been obtained from a judge. If the judge has approved the use of the device, then of course the material obtained can then be used in court," he said.

Heroin trafficking case the first to test eavesdropping law

BY LIN JENKINS

THE first case to test the legality of using evidence from eavesdropping devices in private homes is under consideration by the law lords.

Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, who considered the case in the Court of Appeal, said it raised questions about the need for statutory controls on the placing of bugs and the use in court of the material gathered.

So important are the principles being considered that Liberty, the civil liberties group, won the right to be a third party in the case when it went before the House of Lords to argue that their lordships should take account of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The test case involves Sultan Khan, accused of importing heroin in 1993 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment by Sheffield Crown Court. The evidence against him consisted of tape recorded conversations obtained by South Yorkshire Police using an electronic

listening device installed on the outside of a private house in Sheffield. The Court of Appeal ruled that the trial judge was right to admit the evidence gathered by the bug.

Khan travelled from Pakistan on the same flight as a man caught carrying heroin worth £100,000 and a small amount of cannabis. He claimed to be travelling alone, although admitted knowing Khan, a distant relative.

Khan was not implicated in the trafficking and the following day refused to answer questions at the police station. Four days later he went to a house in Sheffield where a bug had been installed.

It had not been expected that Khan would visit the house, but in a conversation with others there it became clear he was involved in the importation. He was arrested and charged.

The prosecution admitted at the original trial that the bug's attachment had involved a civil trespass and some damage to the property. Without the recordings of the

conversations the Crown had no case. Judge Barber, having heard the legal argument, decided the evidence was admissible and not subject to exclusion. Khan pleaded guilty on the basis of the judge's ruling and reserved the right to challenge it.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the argument that private conversations on private property were inviolate unless and until there was a law making clear to people that their privacy might be intruded upon covertly.

Their lordships said they felt there might be a need for a clearer legal framework for covert surveillance. Lord Taylor expressed concern at the possible erosion of the tenet that "an Englishman's home is his castle. In our view, it is at least worthy of consideration as to whether the circumstances in which bugging a private home can be justified should be the subject of statutory control."

"It might be thought that such control was, by analogy with the interception of Communications Act 1985, just as desirable for bugging as for telephone tapping."

Liberty argues that provision about privacy in the European Convention on Human Rights should be taken into account in considering the Khan case. Judgment is expected later this year.

Telephone tapping became regulated by statute in 1985 after a case taken to the European Court of Human Rights. Tapping a telephone now requires a warrant from the Home Secretary and the information obtained can be used for intelligence gathering but is not admissible as evidence in court.



Joey Pyle, left, was best man at Ronnie Kray's wedding in Broadmoor in 1985. More than 120 hours of bugging was recorded in Pyle's office

BY MICHAEL HORNSWELL

A BUGGING device planted in his office at Pinewood Studios by a policeman posing as a secretary called "Lucy" helped to put Joey Pyle in prison for drug trafficking.

"Big" Joey Pyle is a former boxing promoter turned film entrepreneur who was best man to Ronnie Kray at the East End villain's wedding in Broadmoor in 1985. Pyle is typical of the sort of criminal the police and MI5 will try to catch with covert surveillance and bugging.

For six months Lucy's bug broadcast Pyle's conversations to Scotland Yard's SO11 criminal intelligence unit, which suspected he was a "godfather" of organised crime.

At least 160 45-minute tapes were recorded, of which about six minutes related to drug dealing in a conversation between him and a police infor-

Covert bug exposed film executive's drug trade

man with a criminal record named Richard Ledingham.

Ledingham, who owed Pyle money, approached the police claiming that Pyle had asked him if he would sell on heroin at £28,000 per kilogram. The trap was laid using an undercover police officer called "Dave" who posed as a heroin dealer and another who posed as his runner, as well as Lucy.

Pyle, 59, was convicted at the Old Bailey of supplying heroin and opium with two others in 1992 and sentenced to 14 years.

That trial followed the abandonment of an earlier one at Southwark Crown Court after allegations of interference

with the jury. Pyle appealed against his conviction and the Court of Appeal ordered a retrial. On April 13 last year at Woolwich Crown Court, Pyle was again convicted but his sentence was reduced to nine years and he is now a category C prisoner at Coldingley prison, Surrey.

At both trials transcripts and tapes from the bugging operation were given to the jury as evidence but at neither was the defence allowed to question police about how they obtained them or the authorisation for them.

Dennis Phinbow, Pyle's brother-in-law, said: "It was ruled in court that the police

had no need to divulge anything about the bugging. What legal right have they got to go into anyone's home or business and do this? There is not one single person in this country who doesn't do something wrong in the course of a year."

"It's diabolical that Richard Ledingham was then used as an agent provocateur. He was a paid informer with a criminal record."

A senior legal source said: "We are already becoming Americanised and now face becoming a police state. Senior officers don't care how results are achieved. MI5 will be an agency acting for the

police, a professional body which will attend to bugging. Among their number they will have some pretty unscrupulous characters who will be first-class at getting results by hook or by crook. But there will be indifference as to how they achieve it and that is a very disturbing trend."

Pyle was jailed for three months at the age of 19 for stealing cars and appeared at the Old Bailey five years later charged with the murder of Selwyn Cooney, a nightclub owner.

The first Pen Club trial — so called because the establishment was said to have been bought with the proceeds of a robbery at the Parker pen company — was abandoned after allegations of jury nobbling. At a second trial Pyle was acquitted of murder but sentenced to 18 months for assaulting Cooney moments before he died.



Sultan Khan, right, at Sheffield Crown Court

Device trapped a father's killers

BY LIN JENKINS

THE killers of Grant Price, an accountant abducted from a car park and left to die on a desolate beach, might have remained at large if the police had been refused permission to use a bug.

Detectives investigating the murder in Hampshire two years ago had strong suspicions but little evidence against the killers. Mr Price, a father of two, had been abducted at knifepoint as he returned to his car to fetch his son's spectacles. He was bundled into his car, tied, gagged and driven around the county by his captors, who used his cashcards.

Mr Price was dragged a mile and a half in the dark, stabbed and left, almost

paralysed, to die 24 hours later on an exposed beach on the western approaches to the Solent.

Detective Chief Superintendent Roger Hoddinott, head of Hampshire CID, took the rare step of seeking an order under Home Office guidelines from the Chief Constable to place a covert listening device in the home of Darren Jones.

Jones, 21, of Southsea, Hampshire, and his accomplice Matthew Pearce, 22, of Portsmouth, had been arrested but denied the crime. While they were being questioned the bug was put in place. Extracts from tapes made in more than 135 hours of recordings were read at the trial last June at Winchester Crown Court.

In one recording, Jones made the

admission: "They have to look like they think they know how we killed him." On another occasion, when Pearce was not present, he said: "Set me up, just between me and you. OK? I was up on the beach, Matthew took him down." Pearce was recorded explaining to Jones that he was not a burglar. "I'm a hitman," he said.

The tapes convinced the jury that the two men, who shared a fascination with the military and weapons, were guilty of murder. Mr Hoddinott believes that when they were arrested, on the strength of the recordings, Pearce and Jones were about to embark on a crime spree, having planned a raid to steal guns. "They were going to kill again," he said. "There is no question about it."

Secret video shown at committal

BY LIN JENKINS

VIDEO surveillance from inside the home of a suspect was shown in open court for the first time in the private prosecution for murder brought by the parents of Stephen Lawrence. The case against the four accused collapsed last month when the judge ruled evidence on identification was inadmissible.

Detectives had considered their investigation complete when they charged two people with murder after the black teenager's stabbing in Eltham, southeast London, in April 1993. That July, the Crown Prosecution Service dropped the case, there being "insufficient evidence" to secure a conviction. An inquest was held

in December, but the Southwark Coroner, Sir Montague Levine, halted proceedings when presented with evidence by Michael Mansfield, QC, for the Lawrence family, suggesting that a criminal case might be brought for murder.

A year later, police felt they needed more evidence if the CPS was to agree to pursue the case. They asked Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, for permission to conduct covert surveillance at an address in Eltham. Under Home Office guidelines, such a request could only be for the investigation of "major organised conspiracies and of other particularly serious offences, especially crimes of violence."

A box was placed in the flat rented by

one of the accused, next to the television plug, to record the conversations of those in the flat and film them.

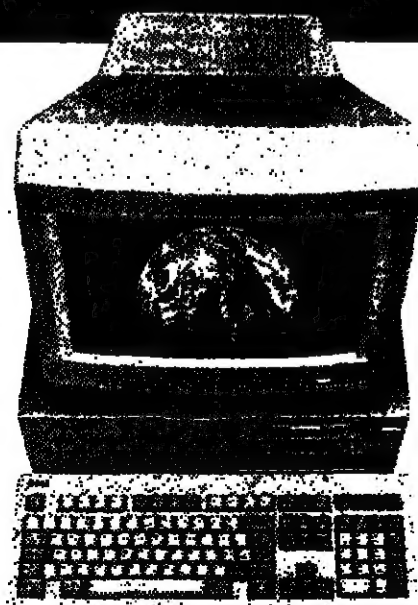
At committal proceedings at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court, southeast London, the defence could not argue that the tapes were inadmissible per se, because of a Court of Appeal ruling in another case, but argued that the behaviour of the accused on the tapes would be prejudicial to their case. After David Cooper, the magistrate, ruled the material could be part of the prosecution case, recordings were shown. Those in the flat seemed to suspect they were being recorded but did not realise they were being filmed.

Because the case collapsed at the Old Bailey, the tapes were not seen by a jury.

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Israel on alert as suicide bomb suspects vanish

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL was plunged into a security alert yesterday, just three weeks before the general election, as Palestinian and Israeli forces launched a man-hunt for two suspected Islamic suicide bombers who disappeared from their West Bank homes and are believed to be on a mission to disrupt the poll.

In the past, Palestinian suicide bombers have often gone missing from their homes for last-minute religious instruction before blowing themselves up, usually with explosives strapped to their body in specially designed belts. Both missing youths were known activists in Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

According to the Palestinian police, who were tipped off by the families of the two men, Saad al-Til and Majed al-Qaisi, both aged 20, disappeared from their village near Hebron, a hotbed of Islamic

militancy where the recent Israeli onslaught on Lebanon has further inflamed opinion among the Palestinian militants.

Early yesterday Israeli security forces swooped on the village and arrested 11 Arabs, including two brothers of one missing man, who were interrogated in a desperate attempt to halt the expected attack.

The unprecedented level of Israeli-Palestinian co-operation in the operation was prompted by concern within the Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, that if Shimon Peres, the Labour Prime Minister, loses the May 29 poll to his right-wing Likud rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, the peace process will collapse.

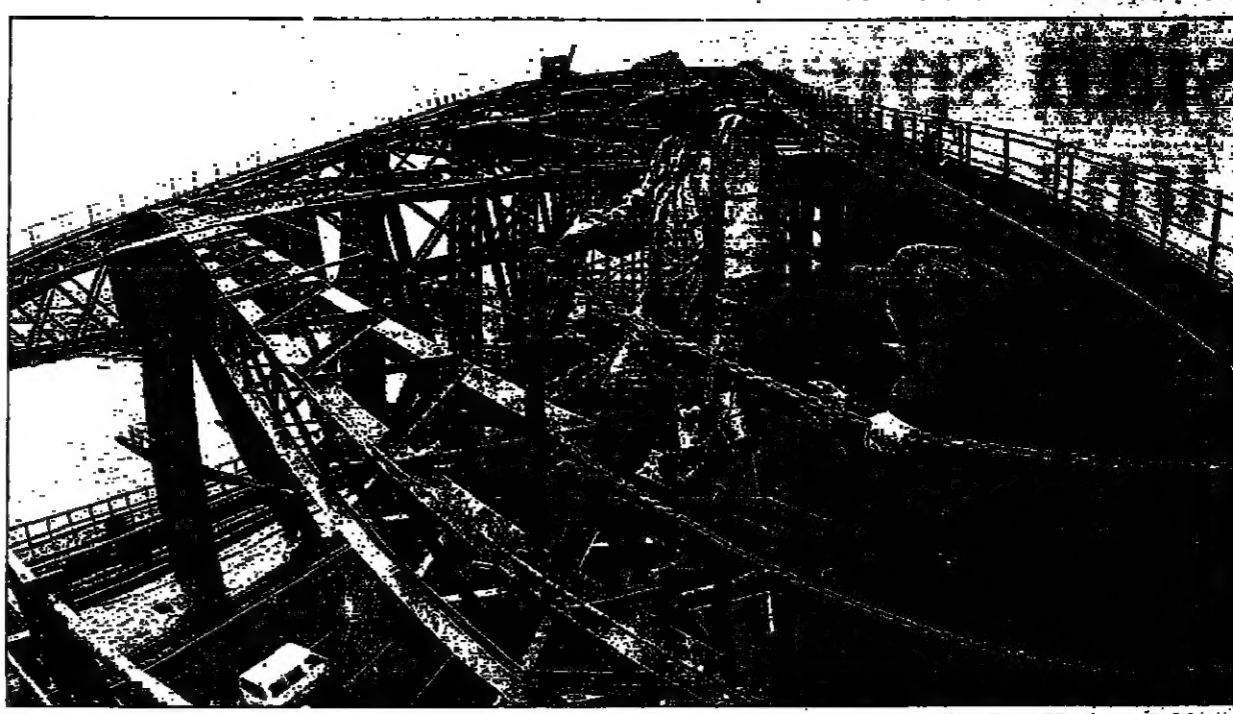
Even as the hunt began Ariel Sharon, a leading member of the Likud team and a potential future Defence Minister, issued a warning that the 1993 peace deal with the Palestinians would be abandoned if Likud was returned.

Observers believe that such a result would spark a new Palestinian intifada.

Mr Peres maintains a diminishing lead of between three to five percentage points over Mr Netanyahu in the latest opinion polls, but a single suicide attack against Jews or on another civilian target could wipe that out overnight.

"If these two men are not caught very quickly, they could be the instruments of a complete change of direction in the Middle East. They have to be found before they wreck what is left of Israeli public confidence in Peres's security policies," one Western security official said.

Nine wounded Israeli soldiers shot and wounded nine Palestinians in clashes with demonstrators protesting against Israeli land seizures close to the self-ruled Palestinian enclave of Qalqilya.



Tourists will be able to follow the narrow walkways, above, across the 457-yard span of Sydney Harbour Bridge



Sydney offers tourists taste of the high life

Sydney: From next year a joint venture between the New South Wales Government and a private tour company hopes to attract 200,000 walkers annually to cross the 457-yard span of the Sydney Harbour Bridge (Roger Maynard writes). Gen-

erations of Australian teenagers have illegally scaled the bridge, which is 440ft high. Bridge climbers will have to wear a waterproof suit connected to a safety cable attached to the existing handrail alongside the narrow walkways.

Prisoners held hostage in Adelaide prison riot

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

RIOT police were surrounding a maximum security jail in Adelaide, South Australia, last night, after prisoners took four warders hostage.

The inmates threatened to kill the guards and set fire to the prison unless their demands were met. Jail sources said the prisoners were objecting to preferential treatment for protected inmates, such as child molesters and police informers, who share their wing in Yatala jail.

A prisoner interviewed by telephone on local television claimed last night that they had petrol bombs and knives. "There are people in here doing life and they've got nothing to lose — they will burn the place down," he said.

At least 30 prisoners were holding three warders, after releasing a fourth who was injured during an initial struggle.

Bill Power, a prison spokesman, said negotiators had established contact and were hoping to achieve a peaceful end to the crisis.

Mystic to India's high and mighty faces fraud charge

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

CHANDRASWAMI, "god-man" to the great spiritual adviser to prime ministers and holder of devastating secrets, has been sent to jail on a charge of cheating a British-based businessman. It is a stunning come-down for India's most powerful and secretive mystic.

Delhi magistrates refused to grant bail and ordered his remand until next week in the bleak Tihar jail a far cry from the luxury to which he is accustomed. From Kumar, the city's chief magistrate, ruled that the "accused is a man with global connections. He has long arms. His remaining at large will impede the fair trial of the case." He added, almost mockingly: "It is he at whose feet bureaucrats, ministers and others are found in sin" and said that the evidence against him was overwhelming.

Mr Kumar rejected the defence counsel's assertion that the "god-man" was being politically persecuted "at the dictates of certain high-ups, including ministers". Chandraswami has enjoyed easy access to Race Course Road, the official residence of P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, who often sought his counsel.

The magistrate's eight-page ruling amounted to a declaration that Chandraswami, who was arrested at a five-star hotel in Madras, was too dangerous to be allowed to remain free. He said: "A person who professes sainthood but is found indulging in activities like cheating should get himself exonerated before being free to preach in society."

Chandraswami, tantric, faith healer and influence peddler, has long enjoyed access to the peaks of power, including Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister; the Sultan of Brunei; Adnan Khashoggi, the international arms dealer; Elizabeth Taylor, whose backache and obesity he claims to have cured; and Sylvester Stallone.

The swami, who in public wears a saffron robe in the manner of a holy man, is charged with cheating Lakshmi Pathak of \$55,000 in 1983 in Britain. The magistrate, in dismissing a bail application, said he had tried either to coerce or win over witnesses in the case. One of his henchmen is alleged to have visited Mr Pathak's daughter, threatened to get her arrested and tried to extort \$19,200 from her.

THE TIMES SCREENWRITING COMPETITION 1996

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Your entry should be in English, typed and double-spaced on A4 paper, and in the following form: a 10% word count, which sets your film script and includes the title, a summary of one page (not more than 750 words), the story, characters, structure and genre, together with one back cover and one front telephone number in the left of the first sheet and of three consecutive sample scenes (not more than a maximum of two A4 pages).

Send your entry to: The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8JN. Closing date: May 9, 1996. Full terms and conditions attached on Thursday, March 28, 1996.

The entry will be judged on the basis of a reader's response to the story and the quality of the writing. The purpose of the competition is to provide a platform for the best screenwriters in the country to pitch their scripts to the major studios and to provide a platform for the best screenwriters in the country to pitch their scripts to the major studios.



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Russian spies step up watch on British firms

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE exposure in Moscow of a Russian espionage agent allegedly working for MI6 comes at a time when Britain's security and intelligence services have been warning officials of an increasing level of spying in this country by Russia's civilian and military agencies.

The SVR, successor to the Cold War KGB, and the GRU, the Russian military intelligence service, have both become increasingly active in Britain, targeting defence and commercial sectors.

Recent warnings of Russian spying in Britain have been made by Dame Stella Rimington, who retired last month as Director-General of MI5, and by the parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, which is chaired by Tom King, the former Secretary of State for Defence.

Yevgeni Primakov, who was head of the SVR before his recent appointment as Russian Foreign Minister, made clear that his country would still spy against Britain. In the past year or so, the SVR and GRU have renewed their efforts to post intelligence officers to London.

Dame Stella, who was succeeded as MI5 Director-General at Easter by Stephen Lander, a senior Security Service official, said in a lecture last year: "The Security Service needs to take the necessary steps to ensure that our national security is not damaged by activity of this sort."

Steps were taken to reinstate some resources that had been diverted to other areas of concern, such as counter-proliferation, to meet the perceived growing Russian espionage threat. However, only one fifth of MI5's "core intelligence resources" are devoted to counter-espionage, compared with about 50 per cent in the period before the fall of President Gorbachev.

In its first annual report, published at the end of March, the Intelligence and Security Committee concluded: "The Security Service will need to keep under close review the resources it devotes to work



Lander: his operations are greatly cut back

against Russian espionage." Mr King also commented: "They [Russian spies] are back in business, having retreated after the collapse of the Soviet Union and there is disturbing evidence that Russian espionage is again on the increase."



If the arrested Russian has genuinely been working for MI6 in Moscow as a prime intelligence asset, it will be a considerable blow because the Secret Intelligence Service has had to reduce by about two thirds its operational efforts to gather covert information on Russia. The Government's electronic signals department at Cheltenham in Gloucestershire, GCHQ, has also cut back its operations against Russia by about a half since the end of the Cold War.

Russian officials in Moscow said that the arrested man worked in a Moscow government department with direct access to classified material and had admitted spying for British intelligence. They said he had been recruited in the mid-1990s and had sold political and defence secrets to MI6.

The number of spying allegations involving either Russian or British agents has dropped sharply since the end

of the Cold War as political relations between the two sides have improved. When cases have arisen, it has often been in the interests of both sides to deal with them confidentially, without any public statements, although some alleged spies have been forced to make public exits.

In recent years, both MI6 and MI5 have tried to encourage the Russian SVR to share intelligence in areas such as international terrorism and nuclear proliferation. However, Dame Stella admitted last year that it was taking longer to reach the same level of understanding and collaboration with the Russians than it had with other members of the former Warsaw Pact.

Nevertheless, there has been some collaboration between the British and Russian intelligence services and meetings have taken place between officials at the highest level. The SVR has shown a particular interest in co-operating on counter-terrorism methods, although so far without any significant practical results. However, yesterday, as a sign that the latest spy allegations from Moscow may not cause long-term damage to the putative intelligence partnership, Russian security police disclosed that they had discovered that the IRA had been using front companies in the Baltic state of Estonia to buy arms.

The Tass news agency quoted sources in the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) as saying that the anti-terrorist department discovered the link during an investigation into illegal arms deals from Estonia to Russia.

The sources said the IRA bought several batches of sniper rifles, machineguns and explosive devices through an Estonian extremist organisation, called Kaitseleht (Defence Union), which they said had links to Estonian intelligence.

Helle Sagris, press secretary to the Estonian security police, said there was no evidence to back up the Russian claims.



Yevgeni Primakov, who kept the espionage network intact in face of budget cuts

The spy chief who came in from the Cold War

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

AS THE spy controversy between Moscow and London unfolded yesterday, Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, may have allowed his usually impassive features to break momentarily into a happy nostalgic smile.

As Russia's former spy chief, who headed the Russian intelligence service before taking his present post this year, he is aware that despite the improvement in Russia's relations with the West, Cold War espionage

still persists between the former rivals.

Mr Primakov, who is largely credited with keeping Russia's spying network together in spite of the budget cuts and administrative chaos of the past five years, has also succeeded in re-establishing the authority of the Foreign Ministry, partly through taking a tougher line with the West.

Mr Primakov, 66, owes much of his success to his deft navigation through Moscow's treacherous political waters. In his career he has slipped

effortlessly from journalism to the academic world to espionage and finally to diplomacy.

Politically, he managed to stay near the top during the Brezhnev stagnation, through the Gorbachev reform years and finally in today's Russia under President Yeltsin.

Mr Primakov was once responsible for trading spies for dissidents with the West, went on trial here for a second time on charges of blackmailing 39 would-be emigrants. He received a suspended jail term at the first trial. (AFP)

Yeltsin vows to hold polls on schedule

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW AND ROGER BOYES IN BONN

PRESIDENT YELTSIN intervened yesterday to reassure Russians that next month's presidential elections will take place as planned after his security chief had called for the vote to be postponed.

In an attempt to dampen the political uproar caused by the remarks made by General Aleksandr Korzhakov, who predicted civil strife if the elections went ahead on June 16, the Russian leader ordered his close friend and adviser not to meddle in politics.

"Several people, not only Korzhakov, believe that Zyuganov's victory would be the beginning of a civil war," Mr Yeltsin said in a reference to his Communist rival, Gennadi Zyuganov. "I trust in the wisdom of the Russian voters. That is why the elections will be held in the time determined by the constitution."

General Korzhakov, a former KGB bodyguard who is widely regarded as the most influential figure in the Kremlin, astounded the country when he said in two interviews that he was against the elections taking place because of the threat of violence from left-wing forces and hardline nationalists who were ready to fight whatever the outcome.

However, President Yeltsin put an end to his declarations. "I told Korzhakov not to meddle and not to make such statements any more."

Nevertheless, the remarks have fuelled speculation that certain elements in the Kremlin hierarchy may resort to desperate measures if they believe that President Yeltsin is headed for defeat. Viktor Anpilov, a hardline Communist allied to Mr Zyuganov, said any attempt to cancel the vote would lead to civil war. "This demonstrates the reluctance of the authorities to permit peaceful transition of power to working people. The leadership feels it is incapable of winning," he said. Vladimir Lukin, a member of the liberal Yabloko party, said the incident smacked of another intrigue and wondered how a man as senior as General Korzhakov could state such a view without the permission of

his superiors. Two possible explanations of his remarks have emerged. Either President Yeltsin used his security boss to send a message to the opposition that the elections would be scrapped if the situation became violent, or the security chief, in league with like-minded figures in the Kremlin, parliament and private sector, genuinely wants to begin a movement to cancel the vote.

Whatever the motivation, the issue could become irrelevant if the latest opinion polls prove correct. Two polls published on Sunday indicated that President Yeltsin had caught up with Mr Zyuganov.

Mr Zyuganov took the country's presidential election campaign to the West yesterday as he attempted to woo both German politicians and bankers.

"It is a mistake to back just one politician," he said in a visit to Bonn. During a meeting with Wolfgang Schäuble, the Christian Democrat parliamentary leader, he argued that the Communist Party had fully democratic credentials and that it would pursue gradual market reform.

No member of the German Government was willing to meet him and he was also shunned during Herr Kohl's visit to Moscow last February. But the loud discussion with Herr Schäuble was regarded as a breakthrough by Mr Zyuganov's aides.



Zyuganov: courts votes in the West

Race is on to topple Helms

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

JESSE HELMS, the conservative icon and most polarising of Senate Republicans, has been the dominant presence in North Carolina politics for the better part of a quarter of a century.

Today will be no exception as his name hangs like an unwanted guest over the state's Democratic primary, in which two candidates are competing for the right to oppose him when he seeks a fifth term in the Senate in November.

The choice for the Democrats is between Harvey Gantt, 53, the first black Mayor of Charlotte, who lost to Mr Helms, 74, six years ago, and Charles Sanders, 64, a wealthy white doctor and former chairman of the American subsidiary of Glaxo, the British pharmaceuticals firm.

Their campaign has become not merely a referendum on Mr Helms but on whether a black candidate is capable of beating him, returning to a leitmotif of race which has followed the senator since he was first elected to Capitol Hill in 1972. In the previous contest

against Mr Gantt, Mr Helms ran a series of controversial advertisements depicting a white man tearing up a rejection slip from his employer. "You needed that job and were the best qualified," intoned the announcer, "but they had to give it to a minority because of a racial quota."

This time, however, an implicit race card has been brought into the campaign by

Mr Sanders, whose pitch has been that he is "the one Democrat who can beat Jesse Helms".

The theme has clearly resonated even among black voters, whose main concern is to eject from office the current chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee and the reigning king of conservative white populism in the South. The most recent polls

suggest that the momentum is behind Mr Sanders in the primary today. Mr Gantt, who once led by 30 points, has been reduced to a 5 per cent lead.

From his rise as a television commentator in the 1960s, when he denounced the Civil Rights Act as "extremely dangerous", to recent opposition to affirmative action and federal funding to fight AIDS, Mr Helms has always provoked visceral reaction among opponents.

Such stands, however, combined with his forceful protection of American interests abroad, objections to arms treaties, opposition to the appointment of ambassadors and blocking of foreign aid, remain popular with rural conservatives in North Carolina.

"I'm of the mind that neither of them can beat Helms," said Thad Boyle, a political science professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Jesse has a way of chewing up everybody who comes after him."

US fosters Mexico ties

Washington: Warren Christopher, American Secretary of State, yesterday hailed a new era of "extraordinary" US co-operation with Mexico and said this would be broadened to include health and energy during meetings this week.

Mr Christopher was addressing the Council of the Americas, a group of 200 US corporations with business in Latin America, before leading a delegation of seven other American Cabinet members to Mexico City for two days of

talks. Although the United States and Mexico have often been at odds over drugs and immigration, Mr Christopher underlined Washington's vital interest in a stable, prosperous and democratic Mexico.

President Clinton last year offered a \$13 billion financial rescue package to help to settle a crisis for the Mexican peso. Mr Christopher praised subsequent decisive economic moves by President Zedillo of Mexico. (Reuters)



Bellar: saw round-up

Aboriginal to become judge

AFTER more than 200 years of white settlement, an indigenous Australian will be appointed a judge this month.

Bob Bellear, 52, was drawn into a legal career after witnessing police "round up" Aborigines in Sydney in 1970 following a disturbance (Our Foreign Staff writes). Rather than join in the fighting, he decided to study law.

He will be sworn in as a judge of the district court in New South Wales on May 17.

Serb war crimes suspect goes on hunger strike

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN KOZARAC

WHEN the first international war crimes trial since Nuremberg begins today at The Hague, prosecutors will try to prove that Dusan Tadic mutilated and killed 16 Bosnian Muslims at concentration camps in the summer of 1992.

Yesterday Mr Tadic, a Serb, said he was starting a hunger strike to press for a fairer trial. Speaking to Dutch television from his prison in Scheveningen, he denied all charges against him.

In Mr Tadic's hometown of Kozarac, a badly damaged village now populated by refugees, his brothers Mladen and Ljubo claim that he is a victim of mistaken identity. They portray their brother as a draft dodger who fell out with the Serb authorities in Prijedor where the Omarska, Keraterm and Trnopolje camps were located. They say he has been made a scapegoat by those who committed the crimes. Survivors of the

camps have identified Mr Tadic, a 41-year-old bar owner and karate instructor, as an executioner who used to enter the camps to torture, rape and kill the inmates.

In one instance, witnesses say Mr Tadic beat four men, then forced another inmate to bite off the testicle of one of those he had beaten, before killing them all. Emir Beganovic, a family friend of the Tadic, was allegedly among the four.

Others say he forced them to drink water from puddles, then jumped on their backs and beat them. But Mladen and Ljubo Tadic claim the victims have mistakenly identified their brother as the perpetrator and that he was tormented by the camps and tried desperately to get his friends out. They say two guards at the Omarska camp, Milorad Tadic and Miroslav Danicic, committed the crimes. The victims at

Omarska, the brothers say, saw Mr Danicic, who looks similar to Dusan Tadic, commit crimes, heard the name Tadic, and made a wrong conclusion.

They say the authorities in Prijedor have admitted privately that their brother is not guilty of the crimes but have refused to state it publicly because they want to protect the real criminals.

The Tadic were one of 12 Serb families in the predominantly Muslim village of Kozarac. Of the four Tadic children, only Dusan stayed there. Once the war started and Kozarac was taken by the Serbs, Mr Tadic joined the Serb police. The Tadic brothers say he chose the police to avoid having to fight on the frontline. "He was a low-level cop who could never have had access to the camps," Ljubo said.

War trial for Bosnia, page 29

Brandenburg vote shatters Prussian dreams

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMAN politicians were lamenting yesterday a "great missed opportunity" and "the chance of a century", but the voters of Brandenburg were clear: they firmly rejected a merger with Berlin and, in so doing, have put an end to the dream of a new Prussian state.

A union of the German capital with the surrounding region of Brandenburg seemed logical to the politicians of both state parliaments when they overwhelmingly approved the idea last year. At a stroke, it would have cut the high costs of maintaining two separate states; it would have enriched and modernised Brandenburg and have given Berlin space to grow.

But the sensible accountants' arguments were given an unfortunate edge by Christian Democrats in Berlin who campaigned for a "Christian Prussia". Berlin and Brandenburg formed the core of the Prussian state that was abolished by the Allies in 1947; the

youth wing of the Christian Democrats even wanted to dub the new state "Prussia". This political misjudgment was based on opinion-poll findings which indicated that many Germans, especially in Berlin and north Germany, admire the old Prussian virtues and no longer identify the state with militarism. An Allensbach opinion poll indicated that 45 per cent of



Frederick the Great: evoking new interest

Germans in the west believed that Prussia had contributed positively to German history, while 41 per cent were undecided. The number of Prussian advocates increased with age — the over 60-year-olds were enthusiastic — and location. Bavarians, traditional foes of the Prussians, made no secret of their displeasure.

The Prussian virtues, as seen by the Germans, include religious tolerance — Protestants and Jews from France and Austria moved there in the 17th and 18th centuries — a sense of duty, respect for education, discipline, loyalty and good housekeeping. The revival of interest in Prussia — including many new books about Frederick the Great — makes much of these virtues.

But it was precisely this frenzied search for roots, for a buried tradition, that scared off most Brandenburgers on Sunday and led to the 55 per cent vote against a merger. Even the promise that the capital of the merged state would be Brandenburg's Potsdam failed to convince them.

That might have created a few jobs, but Brandenburg balked at the idea that bureaucrats would return to the former seat of the Hohenzollerns. The Brandenburgers were also nervous of the way that East Berlin, capital of the former Communist East Germany, dominated the hinterland during the postwar years and sucked away all important investment.

Most relieved by the week-end vote will be Germany's eastern neighbours. The 19th-century Russian reformer, Herzen, had no illusions about Prussia. "The Brandenburg vulture will invite the Russian eagle to dinner," he said. He talked, too, of "the Prussian guard dog which barks and bites along the whole border to Poznan, while licking the boots of Cossacks."

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CRICKET 23

Atherton's defiance in vain as Kent open with a win

RACING 24-25

Full details from all ten Bank Holiday meetings

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LAW: A WAR TRIAL FOR BOSNIA
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THE TIMES

TUESDAY MAY 7 1996

Ebdon showing signs of strain as Scot pursues record-equalling triumph

Hendry edges ever closer to sixth world title

By Phil Yates

ONLY the worst collapse of his 11-year professional career stood between Stephen Hendry and the £200,000 first prize at the Embassy world snooker championship yesterday as he established a 14-10 lead over Peter Ebdon in the final at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Last night, Hendry entered the concluding session of the final, over the best of 35 frames, within sight of equaling the modern record of six world titles, jointly held by Ray Reardon and Hendry's great rival, Steve Davis. He has not been at his unstoppable best at any stage of the 17-day championship, but he has nevertheless responded positively to any whiff of trouble, and it was this ability that helped him to maintain his supremacy.

Facing a 10-6 overnight deficit, Ebdon desperately needed a flying start to the afternoon session but, in an opening frame sealed by a 55 clearance from Hendry, the challenger missed two reds and a straightforward yellow.

Ebdon accounted for the next frame with a solid 61 break, but could not sustain the consistently high standard that helped him to emerge victorious from battles with Jimmy White (13-12), Davis (13-10) and Ronnie O'Sullivan (16-14) in the preceding three rounds.

Therein lay the problem. Ebdon, who prides himself on his mental fortitude and stamina, had trodden a considerably more arduous route to the final than Hendry, who had been seriously threatened only when forced to recover from 6-3 down to beat Jason Ferguson 10-8 in the first round.

Two long reds initiated the breaks of 30 and 56 with which Hendry secured the nineteenth frame and the Scot, attempting to win the championship for the fifth successive year, clinically added the twentieth with a run of 83 after Ebdon had misjudged a safety shot.

Hendry appeared to be in total control, but an uncharacteristic error when poised to claim the 21st frame temporarily undermined his confidence. The blunder came when Hendry, ideally positioned, jawed a simple pink to a middle pocket. Ebdon

FINAL: S Hendry (Scot) leads P Ebdon (Eng) 14-10. Frame scores (Hendry first): 2-101, 75-62, 34-78, 84-61, 50-51, 18-57, 108-4, 74-39, 60-68, 125-0, 22-61, 70-51, 70-77, 74-0, 74-0, 88-0, 88-14, 1-75, 85-21, 83-23, 34-88, 0-77, 60-96, 88-0.

pounced to make it 13-8 and, now enjoying some much-needed momentum, he launched a 77 break in the 22nd frame with an audacious three-ball plant. Suddenly, Hendry's victory did not seem so certain.

The gritty Ebdon's revival, reminiscent of his performance in the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters final last year, when he rallied from 5-1 and 8-6 down to beat Hendry 9-8, continued as, from 54 points in arrears, he won a dramatic 23rd frame on the black.

An extremely risky red, potted despite the cue-ball being tucked under the balk cushion, initiated Ebdon's 51 clearance to blue. Hendry potted the pink, but could not attain position on the black

and left it hanging invitingly over a top pocket after an ambitious attempt at a thin cut.

Ebdon was also presented with the first scoring opportunity in the closing frame of the session, but missed a straight red. An explosive "kick" on a pink ended Hendry's break of 39, but, given a subsequent chance, he then put together a run of 57 to restore a four-frame lead.

That left Hendry requiring only four of the remaining 11 frames for his sixth world championship triumph in seven years and his 25th consecutive match win in the event, stretching back to his surprise quarter-final elimination at the hands of Steve James in 1991.

On Sunday evening, Ebdon had been his own worst enemy after spectacularly doubling a respoited black the length of the table to reduce his deficit to only 7-6.

Shouting "come on, come on" to himself, Ebdon's animated state as he strode out of the arena merely made Hendry, previously relaxed, even more determined. In the final three frames of the second session, Hendry aggregated 290 points without reply. It was a classic case of the world No 1 letting his cue do the talking.

Hendry's attention had earlier been focused by the prospect of a £147,000 bonus for a maximum 147 break, in the tenth frame. Given the chance to achieve his fourth maximum break in competition, Hendry potted 15 reds and 15 blacks, plus the yellow and green, before failing on a difficult brown along the balk cushion.



Ebdon can only watch as Hendry protects his four-frame advantage yesterday. Photograph: Paul Barker

RFU will probe into cup final push in back

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU) will begin today its investigation of the concluding episode of the Pilkington Cup final on Saturday between Bath and Leicester, when Neil Back, the Leicester flanker, pushed Steve Lander, the match referee, to the ground.

Assault of a referee is the most serious crime in rugby; it carries with it the possibility of suspension *sine die*, though, in this instance, a potential push scarcely equates to a hot-blooded attack that has sometimes been the lot of referees in, for example, France. Nonetheless, action must be taken for the good of the game.

Roy Manock, the RFU's disciplinary officer, has called for reports from the referee and touch judges and he will study a video recording. "If I think there is a case to be answered, I will set up a panel of three independent officials," Manock said yesterday. Leicester are content with that.

The Leicester management studied the video on Sunday and yesterday issued a statement accepting Back's initial claim that he believed that it was Andy Robinson, the Bath flanker, whom he pushed after the final whistle. Even so, the image left with thousands of rugby enthusiasts, thanks to television, is of a player pushing a match official.

Leicester will hope that rumours linking several of their first-team reserves — and a couple of first-teamers — with Coventry, the champions of the third division, do not come true. Coventry are expected to unveil new players tomorrow.

Richmond, the runners-up to Coventry, are expected to announce today two new signings in Ben Clarke, the Bath and England No 8, and Scott Quinnell, from Llanelli via Wigan rugby league club.

Quinnell's switch, page 22

Brighton to restage abandoned match

YORK City's Endsleigh Insurance League second division match against Brighton, abandoned because of crowd trouble ten days ago, is to be restaged at the Goldstone Ground on Thursday, with an 11am kick-off (Russell Kempson writes). The Football League has made the match all-ticket.

If York draw, or manage to score three goals in defeat, they will avoid joining Brighton in the third division next season. Carlisle United, above York only on goals scored, will be relegated instead.

Douglas Craig, the York chairman, said: "We have to get the season finished, that's all there is to it." Tickets will be limited to two per person and will only be on sale at the

Goldstone Ground tomorrow between 9am and 5pm.

The Football Association is to consider reports of crowd trouble at the weekend matches involving Ipswich Town and Millwall, Coventry City and Leeds United and Hull City and Bradford City. Millwall supporters ripped out seats and threw them on to the pitch after the 0-0 draw at Portman Road on Sunday had sent their club into the second division.

It could lead to the FA activating the suspended sentence — a £100,000 fine and two games to be played behind closed doors — that has hung over Millwall since trouble during the play-off match against Derby County two years ago.

Venables seeking smooth build-up

By Russell Kempson

CHINESE football authorities have ordered hasty repairs on their pitch at the Workers' Stadium in Peking before England will agree to play on it on May 23. Terry Venables, the England coach, inspected the surface on Sunday, asked for improvements and will look at it again tomorrow.

However, it is unlikely that the fixture, against a Chinese XI, will be cancelled. It is England's penultimate match before Euro 96 — they conclude their Far East tour against a Hong Kong XI on May 26 — and Venables is keen for the build-up to the championship to be uninterrupted.

China should provide testing opposition. They defeated Sampdoria, of Italy, 3-1 last

June and Colombia 2-1 in October. Arsenal lost 2-1 to Guo An, a Peking club, in the Workers' Stadium 12 months ago, a game in which David Seaman, their goalkeeper, fell awkwardly and broke an ankle. It was the incident that prompted Venables's reconnaissance trip.

"It's not clear yet whether the pitch will be OK," an official of the Chinese Football Association said. "It seems there are some problems." Unseasonable weather in the Chinese capital has left sections of pitch yellow and almost bare, but Tan Yishu, the stadium manager, was optimistic. "This is the best bit of grass in China," he said.

The English FA is not unduly worried. "After looking at the pitch for the first time, Terry wants some extra

work done on it," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said yesterday. "The Chinese people are doing that and we don't believe the game is in any jeopardy."

Venables is due to announce



Venables: pitch inspection

his tour party tomorrow, from which the final 22 players for Euro 96 will be drawn. Today, Steve Howey, the Newcastle United defender, faces a fitness test at the club's Maiden Castle training ground that will determine his England prospects.

After damaging a hamstring in the 4-3 defeat away to Liverpool, Howey missed Newcastle's closing seven games during the FA Carling Premiership run-in. "I don't think I'm 100 per cent, but I'll give it a go," he said.

Tony Adams, the Arsenal centre back, is also doubtful — he has not played since mid-January — but Gary Pallister, Gareth Southgate and Darren Anderton, England's other long-term injury worries, have returned recently and should be available to Venables.

No seagulls in sight as Cantona breaks silence

Peter Ball finds the French forward in talkative mood after the euphoria of Premiership success



Cantona: has repaid faith United have shown in him

Winning the FA Carling Premiership is an even more momentous achievement than we thought. It persuaded Eric Cantona to break his self-imposed silence yesterday for almost the first time since he informed an expectant world that seagulls follow trawlers on the look-out for sardines. That was taken to be a metaphor.

This time, his utterances were less gnomic as he considered his return from ignominy to help Manchester United to win their third championship in four years. "For the last 15 or 16 matches, we have concentrated completely on that objective," he told *L'Equipe*, the French sports newspaper, adding the French equivalent of "over the moon" — "C'est vraiment un beau jour."

Turning to his tormentor, Matthew Simmons, the Crystal Palace supporter whom Cantona attacked, who last week had been found guilty of threatening behaviour, and then assaulted the prosecution counsel,

Cantona was magisterial. "I don't want to give that person more importance than he has," Cantona said. "I would simply say that that [Simmons's assault on the lawyer] speaks for itself." He admitted, though, that his clash with Simmons, which brought him a two-week jail sentence, later committed to community service, and an eight-month ban from football had taught him a lesson.

"Before that night, I was behaving like a child," he said in a rare display of self-criticism. "I was prepared to repeat the same mistake again and again. After it, I realised that that was an irresponsible habit."

Cantona said that he had been hurt by the amount of criticism that followed his kung fu attack on Simmons at Selhurst Park a year ago in January, but added: "I'm not naive.

I know that now there will be a lot of praise, and that, too, will probably be too much."

At the time, United's decision to stand by Cantona provoked a lot of criticism for the club and Alex Ferguson, the manager, as well. Cantona's behaviour, and form, since his return has repaid their faith, and Cantona made a further down-payment yesterday when he committed himself to United for the rest of his career.

"I have signed a contract [last August, for three years], and I will stay here as a sign of my faith and trust in Alex Ferguson and my team-mates," Cantona said. "It was Ferguson who persuaded me to stay after that incident, and I wish to carry on repaying his faith in me."

He was equally supportive of the France national team, although he has

not been restored to the squad since being stripped of the captaincy in the wake of the Simmons affair. "I have followed what has been going on in France, but, as for being in the team, we'll have to see," he said. "I have a lot of friends in the team and, with or without me, I wish the team well."

He was less generous to David Ginola, of Newcastle United, his old sparring partner, who saw the dream of the Premiership title disappear over four days last week. "I think there are some people who talk too much," Cantona said. "The most important thing is what is done on the pitch."

There at least, nobody can quibble with Cantona this season, but he, too, may be talking more this week — he is expected to make an acceptance speech when he picks up his Football Writers' Association footballer-of-the-year award on Thursday night.

Ferguson's triumph, page 25
Ball's despair, page 25
ITF standings, pages 26, 27

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Atherton's authority fails to mask damaging impetuosity of colleagues

Lancashire lured to their doom by wiles of Patel

By SIMON WILDE

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Kent (19pts) beat Lancashire (4) by 64 runs

THE first two days of this match produced grey skies and frustration, but yesterday brought glorious compensations. A target of 340 for Lancashire to win, albeit with two batted declarations on Saturday, set the stage for a thrilling, fluctuating finale, played out in warm sunshine and culminating in Kent's first Britannic Assurance County Championship victory since June 5 last year.

Lancashire batted as though they thought they could not lose. That was all very well when Atherton and Fairbrother, who struck a sparkling 85 from 88 balls, cracked along in a third-wicket partnership of 140 in 101 minutes, but less well later when

opportunities to do these days: but after 260 minutes his final stroke — attempting to pull a sixteenth boundary that would have given him only his third championship hundred since becoming England captain three years ago — made defeat a certainty.

Patel deserves credit for drawing Lancashire to their doom. He bowled without a break, except to change ends twice, from shortly before lunch until the finish, which came in the third of the final hour's 16 overs, and he simply wore the batsmen down.

As has become his habit in recent times — when Kent have struggled to dismiss opponents — Patel turned to bowling over the wicket as his side sought to staunch the flow of runs. It worked like a dream. His third spell yielded five of the last six wickets for

22 runs in 62 balls as Lancashire slid from 223 for four to 275 all out.

This performance may provide Patel with the encouragement he needs after a disappointing season last year. Two years ago he was the leading wicket-taker in England with 90 victims and was close to England selection, since when he has fallen behind Richard Illingworth, Phil Tufnell and perhaps even Richard Stemp in the ranks of left-arm spinners.

If Patel — who has now taken 31 wickets at 17 each in his last four championship matches against Lancashire — did the mopping up, the Kent seamers played their parts. With Ealham resting a tender hamstring, they were operating one short but Thompson and Fleming each made one telling contribution early on.

Thompson added to the growing list of Test batsmen among his victims by removing Gallian, and Fleming produced a delicious inswinger to bowl Crawley.

Fairbrother joined Atherton at 50 for two and was into his stride with typical ease, but before lunch, Atherton was barely less positive. He had scored 63 by lunch but afterwards adopted the anchor role and added only 30 during the session. In fact, after taking 87 balls to reach 50, he spent another 140 scoring 48 more.

Perhaps the most significant spell of the day was bowled by McCague, clearly desperate to perform well against the England captain. His first two spells were fruitless, and Atherton treated him without mercy, but his third in mid-afternoon brought him the wickets of Fairbrother — caught by Hooper at slip off a rebound from the wicket-keeper's glove — and Speak in successive overs.

Lancashire, moments earlier 190 for two, were 194 for four and the mood had subtly altered. Unfortunately, some of their players had not noticed.

KENT: First Innings 320 (R Ward 106, C.L. Hooper 54, R.C. Marsh 52)

Second Innings
D.P. Fulton b W. Taylor 1
M.V. Fleming c Chapman b Westwood 18
R. Ward c Spink b Westwood 17
C.L. Hooper not out 38
M. Ealham not out 11
Total (8 wickets) 275

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10, 2-20, 3-40, 4-100, 5-130, 6-144, 7-150, 8-151, 9-152, 10-153, 11-154, 12-155, 13-156, 14-157, 15-158, 16-159, 17-160, 18-161, 19-162, 20-163, 21-164, 22-165, 23-166, 24-167, 25-168, 26-169, 27-170, 28-171, 29-172, 30-173, 31-174, 32-175, 33-176, 34-177, 35-178, 36-179, 37-180, 38-181, 39-182, 40-183, 41-184, 42-185, 43-186, 44-187, 45-188, 46-189, 47-190, 48-191, 49-192, 50-193, 51-194, 52-195, 53-196, 54-197, 55-198, 56-199, 57-200, 58-201, 59-202, 60-203, 61-204, 62-205, 63-206, 64-207, 65-208, 66-209, 67-210, 68-211, 69-212, 70-213, 71-214, 72-215, 73-216, 74-217, 75-218, 76-219, 77-220, 78-221, 79-222, 80-223, 81-224, 82-225, 83-226, 84-227, 85-228, 86-229, 87-230, 88-231, 89-232, 90-233, 91-234, 92-235, 93-236, 94-237, 95-238, 96-239, 97-240, 98-241, 99-242, 100-243, 101-244, 102-245, 103-246, 104-247, 105-248, 106-249, 107-250, 108-251, 109-252, 110-253, 111-254, 112-255, 113-256, 114-257, 115-258, 116-259, 117-260, 118-261, 119-262, 120-263, 121-264, 122-265, 123-266, 124-267, 125-268, 126-269, 127-270, 128-271, 129-272, 130-273, 131-274, 132-275, 133-276, 134-277, 135-278, 136-279, 137-280, 138-281, 139-282, 140-283, 141-284, 142-285, 143-286, 144-287, 145-288, 146-289, 147-290, 148-291, 149-292, 150-293, 151-294, 152-295, 153-296, 154-297, 155-298, 156-299, 157-300, 158-301, 159-302, 160-303, 161-304, 162-305, 163-306, 164-307, 165-308, 166-309, 167-310, 168-311, 169-312, 170-313, 171-314, 172-315, 173-316, 174-317, 175-318, 176-319, 177-320, 178-321, 179-322, 180-323, 181-324, 182-325, 183-326, 184-327, 185-328, 186-329, 187-330, 188-331, 189-332, 190-333, 191-334, 192-335, 193-336, 194-337, 195-338, 196-339, 197-340, 198-341, 199-342, 200-343, 201-344, 202-345, 203-346, 204-347, 205-348, 206-349, 207-350, 208-351, 209-352, 210-353, 211-354, 212-355, 213-356, 214-357, 215-358, 216-359, 217-360, 218-361, 219-362, 220-363, 221-364, 222-365, 223-366, 224-367, 225-368, 226-369, 227-370, 228-371, 229-372, 230-373, 231-374, 232-375, 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The players' weekly and overall scores and their values heading into the final week of the game

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-3	-22	
10102	B Mims	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1	
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+5	+51	
10203	A Cotton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0	
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+4	-81	
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0	
10303	A Fatta	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0	
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+2	+58	
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
10501	J Lulic	Leeds United	3.00	0	-19	
10502	M Beasley	Leeds United	0.75	-1	-13	
10601	P Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-5	
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0	
10603	S Hissop	Newcastle United	3.00	+3	+13	
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	+3	
10702	E Thorndyke	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-7	
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0	
10803	J Sommar	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-5	-48	
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7	
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	+5	-22	
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38	
11001	B Gribben	Southampton	1.50	0	0	
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	+3	-20	
11101	D Kvarn	Chelsea	2.50	-5	-46	
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	0	-18	
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+4	+36	
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0	
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-1	-47	
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6	
11401	L Miliutek	West Ham United	2.50	-1	-17	
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5	
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	-2	
11502	J Newton	Everton	0.75	0	0	
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+14	
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
11603	J Flen	Coventry City	1.50	0	-95	
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0	
11703	E Inmich	Manchester City	2.00	-3	-39	
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-1	+30	
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	-2	
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-5	-18	
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-3	-71	
12002	A Davidson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	
12003	G Ward	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-8	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-1	+18	
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3	
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-1	+26	
20104	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0	
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	+3	+50	
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1	
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	0	+22	
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	+4	+47	
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	+4	+28	
20302	D Lytle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+20	
20303	A Hasland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+1	-16	
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+60	
20402	S Bjornneby	Liverpool	3.00	0	+8	
20403	S Harrison	Liverpool	0.75	0	+30	
20501	T Dorogi	Leeds United	3.50	0	+15	
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+18	
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	-2	-2	
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+11	
20602	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24	
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-2	+12	
20702	J Edinburg	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+5	
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	+1	+40	
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0	
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+22	
20801	D Bardeley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	-14	
20802	R Brevet	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-2	-2	
20803	N Zane	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-1	
20804	T Cheate	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0	
20805	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	0	
20806	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8	
20807	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	+4	+14	
20808	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	+24	
21002	F Benell	Southampton	1.00	+4	+20	
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+6	
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11	
21102	S Mirto	Chelsea	1.50	-2	+2	
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-2	+12	
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	0	+8	
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	0	+20	
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+56	
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+4	+54	
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	+4	
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-9	
21303	P Altherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-15	
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-4	
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+28	
21402	K Bracker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-10	
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	+3	
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	+1	+13	
21501	G Abblett	Everton	2.50	0	+10	
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4	
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+11	
21505	M Hotzger	Everton	3.00	+4	+7	
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	+3	+4	
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	+4	+21	
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0	
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	+4	-8	
21702	R Edgill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1	
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1	
21706	M Frontzack	Manchester City	1.50	0	-12	
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+50	
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	0	+12	
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	-1	+56	
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0	
21901	C Blomqvist	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+8	
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	+22	
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+18	
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+5	
21905	Branco	Middlesbrough	2.50	-1	-1	
22001	G Bergesson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	-10	
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	-8	
22003	J Phillips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-20	
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	+2	-4	
22005	S McAnaspie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	0	
22006	B Small	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	-1	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	-1	+22	
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3	
30103	N Mariner	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+5	
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0	
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	+13	
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	+3	+38	
30202	G Fallister	Manchester United	1.50	+7	+26	
30203	D Hie	Nottingham Forest	3.50	+4	+27	
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+4	+13	
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+45	
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	+3	+45	
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	+2	+41	
30403	J Scates	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+49	
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	-1	+45	
30405	D Watson	Liverpool	0.75	0	+8	
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	+2	+13	
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	1.50	0	-11	
30503	J Penberton	Leeds United	1.00	-3	-10	
30504	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3	
30601	R Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	+3	+30	
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+26	
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+27	
30701	G Mabbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+25	
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	-5	
30703	S Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0	
30704	K Soth	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	



Jan Molby has virtually clinched the PFA members' competition with his team, Danish Dynamite

A LOOK AT HOW THE PFA MEMBERS' TEAMS ARE FARING

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	522	36	Squark Hubbs	(D Dicho)	378
2	West Shambles Utd	(S Walsby)	488	37	Irish Connection	(W Boland)	378
3	Mash FC	(M Powell)	468	38	Ryton Raiders	(G Gillespie)	378
4	Rattus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	468	41	Eleven From Heaven	(A Lupton)	377
5	Dred Select	(S Morgan)	458	42	Mine Mine United	(S Hodge)	375
6	Teds XI	(B Home)	451	43	Fast Attack	(D Lee)	371
7	Mace Woodies	(A McDonald)	444	44	Fergie's Flyers	(D Ferguson)	369
8	The Buff Neck	(R Fox)	438	45	T B's XI	(S Chetty)	368
9	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	436	46	Saba Eleven	(S Boud)	364
9	Cadbury's Bust	(D Bust)	436	47	Sheffield City FC	(S Tiler)	369
11	J & F FC	(J Barford)	433	48	Sheep In White Socks	(D Phillips)	368
12	Southcoote Old Boys	(M Allen)	428	49	Pedro's Pearls	(P Beardsley)	364
13	Bulldock Toon	(S Stone)	428	40	Tallgate Town	(G O'Toole)	364
14	Dodgy Barrels Eleven	(J Barford)	422	51	The Fair Boys	(L Clark)	348
15	Mb's	(D Peacock)	421	51	Smokin' Cigars	(N Zello)	348
16	Pure Silk	(T Sinclair)	420	53	Hitchhys XI	(K Hitchcock)	339
17	Pedro	(M Kennedy)	418	54	Complete Madness	(S Chetty)	335
18	J C's Superstars	(S Clarke)	414	54	Keepers Graspers	(S Ogrizovic)	336
19	The Bluesons	(J Spencer)	411	55	The True Vikings	(S Bjornneby)	334
19	The Travellers	(L Hurst)	411	57	The Lapsrooms	(K Gillespie)	329
21	Bruce Bonns	(A Hinchcliffe)	408	56	Pie Men	(J Perkins)	326
22	Robe Rockets	(R Lee)	407	59	Kirby Krunchers	(A Stubbs)	320
23	The Feb 12	(F Deffries)	406	60	Craig's Crankers	(G Strachan)	313
24	Karnes City Kings	(T Breaker)	405	61	Tellon Town	(K Branagan)	311
25	Fantasia	(D Platt)	401	62	Kir & Kiboodle	(J Moncur)	308
25	The Warriors	(S Dykstra)	401	63	Raggy Rovers	(J Derby)	308
26	Guango Utd	(S Brown)	399	64	Seven Seas	(J Gould)	301
26	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	399	65	Gormes Gears	(G Strachan)	300
29	Tony's Welsh Terrie	(I Rush)	398	66	Spice Islanders	(S Bason)	295
30	Avenue Foch Town FC	(M Crossley)	391	67	Manchester Marauders	(A Pottinger)	290
31	Elly's Eggs	(R Elliott)	390	68	Lites A Pitch	(D Marwood)	289
31	Whitby Womers	(S Whitaker)	390	69	Goalies 11	(D Sisman)	287
33	Craze Jacks	(S Elliott)	388	70	Ryton Wanderers	(P Shilton)	281
34	Barons Follies	(S Barker)	388	71	Foreign United	(R Sneekes)	280
35	Goochies	(N Southall)	387	72	One Footed Wonders	(D Fairclough)	285
36	Silver Sand Club XI	(T Blake)	383	73	Steno Utd	(J Williams)	287
37	Prince's Team	(A Phillips)	380	74	Champagne Charles	(S Osborn)	286

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13	
30802	S Yates	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-2	-11	
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+6	
30805	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	-2	-5	
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	+4	-2	
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8	
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5	
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	+3	-13	
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+1	
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	+4	+17	
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	+4	+16	
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	+4	+15	
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	-3	+9	
31102	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5	
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-2	+20	
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	+1	
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	+27		
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23	
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	+4	+37	
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	+4	+18	
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0	
31303	J Newcombe	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0	
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	+0	+13	
31402	M Barnes	West Ham United	1.50	0	+14	
31403	A March	West Ham United	1.00	-1	+19	
31405	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
31406	S Biff	West Ham United	1.50	0	+4	
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	+3	+39	
31502	D Wallace	Everton	2.50	+4	+27	
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	+13	
31602	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7	
31603	D Busset	Coventry City	0.75	0	+9	
31604	M Barnes	Coventry City	1.50	0	+15	
31605	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-4	-9	
31606	L Dale	Coventry City	1.50	+4	+14	
31701	K Currie	Manchester City	1.50	-1	+8	
31702	A Kernaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3	
31704	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	+2	+13	
31801	I Ehigiu	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+39	
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+28	
31803	A Hogg	Aston Villa	0.75	-2	+14	
31801	M Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	-24	
31802	S Vickera	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	-17	
31803	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	0	
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	-2	-15	
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-1	+12	
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	-20	
32003	G Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-1	-1	
32004	G Tappin	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-10	
32005	G Tappin	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0	

Leader admits that he cannot bear to watch Wembley finale with £50,000 on the line

Prospect of Final flourish proves turn-off for Jones

Mike Jones will not be watching the FA Cup Final this time. Down the years, he has been an avid viewer, even if his team, Sheffield United, have not been involved since 1936. It is not that he does not want to watch the clash between Manchester United and Liverpool — his nerves will not stand it.

Jones, from Sheffield, is the manager of Jones Boys Six, the side entering the final week of Interactive Team Football (ITF) in the lead on 728 points. His nine-point advantage ought to be enough to ensure victory, but he is not counting his chickens just yet. Hard on his heels are Laytons Lions, on 719 points, and Gohlis Gods 65, on 714.

The three men have just the Wembley showpiece on Saturday left to negotiate. Tactics are going to be as important as ever, and Jones realises that he is not past the winning post yet.

"Even though I have a healthy advantage over the opposition, I must admit I am frightened to death about the game and definitely will not be watching it," Jones said.

"The £50,000 is a big prize to win and most of the money will be absorbed by my twin boys who are six months old. It would be the biggest disaster if I get beaten and I have tried not to think about spending the money yet."

Jones has shown himself to be a fine manager during the season and has steered his team through the tactical minefield in a most accomplished manner. One last problem remains to be solved, however, in the shape of his goalkeeper, Peter Schmeichel, of Manchester United.

"One tactic I will definitely be using this week is to replace Schmeichel with a goalkeeper who will not be playing. Schmeichel has been a fine servant to me, but, if Fowler or Collymore get going, it could be potentially the end," Jones said.

To add to his problems, Jones Boys Six also deploy two defenders involved at Wembley on Saturday — Philip



Neville, of Manchester United, and Mark Wright. Either could cost Jones points should their side concede a goal. He can change only one of them — but which one?

Waiting in the wings should Jones Boys Six slip up is Laytons Lions, managed by Richard Layton, of Stanmore, in Middlesex. He, too, has Neville and Wright in his side, but also has Alex Ferguson, of United. He will have to transfer very shrewdly to close the gap and a better combination of players for the final game is enjoyed by Gohlis Gods 65.

"The side managed by the Gohlis brothers from London seems to have it all to do to close a 14-point gap, but their Liverpool strike-force of Fowler and Collymore might

make things interesting if United have an off-day.

Whatever the outcome of the competition, *The Times* has organised a lunch to reward the top ten players, to be held at the themed football restaurant, "Football Football", in London's Haymarket on May 12 from 11am.

There will be FA Carling Premiership players in attendance at the lunch and each of the top ten managers will receive a selection of "Football Football" merchandise.

If you wish to transfer a Manchester United or Liverpool player into your ITF team, you can do this by telephone. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prize.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and on the opposite page is a look at how they have progressed.

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Schmeichel will be dropped by Jones Boys Six for the FA Cup Final — surely a slap in the face for the Dane after his great work?

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	2pts
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Saves goal	1pt	All players	1pt
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	3pts
Saves goal	1pt	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player	3pts	Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Saves goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	3pts	Manager	1pt
Set off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† Must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331
* Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p.
If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 8am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 8pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 8am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must wait a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would result in any over-spending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out: Club _____ Player code: _____

Player in: Club _____ Player code: _____

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	728
2	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	719
3	Gohlis Gods 65	(B Gohl)	714
4	Jones Boys Four	(M Jones)	707
5	Percys Progress	(M Percich)	697
6	K P Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	696
7	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	678
8	Nigels Right Foot	(D Palmer)	675
9	Estuary	(P Gilson)	674
10	County Pine A	(J Hunt)	672
11	Tony's All Stars	(A Boydland)	670
12	Burwell United	(R Barnham)	670
13	Kleppurs Five	(E Klepp)	668
14	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	667
15	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	663
16	Ormy Stars	(D Gornall)	660
17	Nobley One	(A Brown)	658
18	Fair Fair Flapjacks	(C Woodward)	658
19	Jordan's XI	(P Barnard)	658
20	Teddy Five	(B Bare)	657
21	Adams Men Or God 4	(R Bare)	654
22	Turners Earners 2	(D Conroy)	652
23	Sharon's Buds	(G Batschelor)	652
24	Venue's	(J Bridge)	651
25	Reggie's Reds	(P Johnson)	651
26	Tommy Cockles XI	(D Shuter)	650
27	Russell 3	(A Nadeon)	650
28	Jeasless Darlings 4	(A Hewitt)	649
29	Paron United	(S Lazaridis)	648
30	Apollo 2	(A Brown)	647
31	Nobley Net	(D Shuter)	647
32	Don Shuter C	(J R Reader)	645
33	Cameron Athan	(J Albertson)	645
34	Wildbees	(P Barnham)	644
35	Hendos Rovers	(E Kibby)	644
36	Kleppurs Two	(P Gregoroff)	642
37	Lemonies	(J Sanderson)	640
38	Reactive City 2	(D F Richardson)	640
39	Doog's Desperados	(A Nevskizsky)	640
40	Nadar	(P Young)	638
41	Top Heavy?	(A Ford)	637
42	Aldrie	(D Warner)	637
43	Eggs N'ham	(G Brewer)	635
44	Staves Lions 6	(J Sanderson)	635
45	Metro Ltd	(M McGovern)	633
46	March Pass	(G Banks)	633
47	Strangers	(J Nicholl)	633
48	Sensible City	(G Cole)	633
49	Points Make Prices	(D Chopping)	632
50	Jeasmond 1850	(S Murray)	632
51	Dun Elm Saints	(J Doyle)	632
52	The Rainbow Connect	(G Wales)	632
53	Sweet And Stubbie	(K Booth)	631
54	St Renny Strikers	(G Debnor)	631
55	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	631
56	Shrew Voles	(H Brasher)	631
57	Albion Town	(J Hedgoc)	631
58	DM OGS	(D McGregor)	630
59	Kleppurs Three	(E J Kibby)	629
60	Sky Blue Royles	(R G Foster)	628
61	Bon Accord	(M Corless)	628
62	A	(I Platt)	628
63	Platty Rovers	(C Nicol)	628
64	Partick Thistle	(K Hughes)	625
65	Nippers	(D Lock)	625
66	The Locksters	(J Donovan)	624
67	Nirvana FC		

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF hotline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
70	County Pine L	(J Hunt)	623
71	County Pine O	(J Hunt)	623
72	Norman	(T Sigsworth)	623
73	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	623
74	The Likely Lads	(G Padder)	623
75	Playboy And Smithers	(K Booth)	623
76	Upum	(S Kavanagh)	622
77	Bartie Thistles	(C Nicol)	622
78	The Living Dead	(T Stackell)	621
79	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	621
80	Bulwith Utd	(M Larkham)	620
81	Justitine	(A Kent)	620
82	Chip N' Dale XI	(Mrs E L Arrowsmith)	619
83	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	619
84	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Ball)	619
85	Achilles Heel	(M Koutas)	618
86	Monster Monster	(M Parikh)	618
87	D H 2	(M Cortess)	618
88	Wallace & Gromit FC	(S Hyams)	618
89	Don't Rangers	(I Clayton)	618
90	Staves Lions 5	(S Brewer)	617
91	Das Boot	(D Sutton)	617
92	DM OGS	(D McGregor)	617
93	Devon Lisbon Lions	(D Strachan)	616
94	The Wild Boogies	(P Mc Dowell)	616
95	Westable Utd 3	(D T Smith)	615
96	Eleven For None	(P S Gubalia)	615
97	Abargavenny Rovers	(S Smith)	615
98	DM 001	(D McGregor)	615
99	Wimpys Utd	(A Heath)	614
100	Talltown	(T Wood)	614
101	Joe Royles Wink 3	(T Gammage)	614
102	Platypus United	(M Allison)	614
103	Bumzy's Babes	(T Burns)	614
104	Boing Boing Buggy	(T Horne)	614
105	Clarus Ducks	(T Collier)	614
106	Headstar	(D Stokes)	613
107	Harrington Inter	(J Lovell)	613
108	Wintageal Utd	(A Hughes)	613
109	Pig In A Poke	(J Walters)	613
110	The Sinking Ship	(T Blythe)	613
111	Clinton Forest	(J Baker)	612

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
112	How We Go	(S Smith)	612
113	Francis Caldwell FC	(C Caldwell)	612
114	Blip	(M Mijawski)	611
115	Slovak City	(M Franks)	611
116	Nats Lions	(N Brewer)	610
117	Staves Lions 8	(S Brewer)	610
118	The 2 Uffles	(M Forde)	610
119	110 Parnisi	(M C Doherty)	610
120	Rockies Supers	(P Sutton)	609
121	Turners Earners	(P Turner)	609
122	Fornby Flyers	(A Norton)	609
123	Turners United	(N Lane)	609
124	Triple Peckers	(J B Portwood)	609
125	Gohlis Gods 75	(S Gohl)	609
126	Seven Kings FC 1	(S Siddiqui)	608
127	After Moonchild	(A Walden)	608
128	Old Tirt	(J Hattfield)	607
129	Wotnocheaser	(K Booth)	607
130	Alban Dynamoes	(A Hill)	606
131	Star's Dirty Dozen	(S House)	606
132	CPH Auctioneers A	(S Kempster)	606
133	Merch Wales 20	(A Hill)	606
134	Roy Hates Football	(M Woods)	606
135	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Poddar)	606
136	NFC	(R Calder)	606
137	The West One Too	(A Nelson)	605
138	Goal Diggers	(T Sainsbury)	605
139	JRFC 2	(J Roth)	605
140	Sligwig Utd	(S Gorse)	605
141	Stew's Scores	(S Thindler)	605
142	Good Times United	(T Stapleford)	605
143	Purged Agricol Zoo	(T Hudson)	605
144	Rhonda's Rebels	(A Targett)	605
145	Menage A Orize 2	(P Young)	605
146	Yikes Ytzy	(D Flory)	604
147	JR's Dolphins	(J F Kitchan)	604
148	Purcell Rangers	(F McDonald Pussell)	604
149	No Duffies Club	(J B Portwood)	604
150	Dwynys Dibblers	(A J Philcock)	604
151	Arabs	(G Howitt)	604
152	Long Drive	(J Parker)	603
153	Only Can Saver	(M McKeown)	603
154	Narrow	(G Bahadjojan)	603
155	The Super Doms	(D Teurne)	603
156	Dinamo Defunkit	(J Woodhouse)	603
157	Beastful Bankers	(C Alavoine)	603
158	Overhill Rovers	(M Jemini)	603
159	Mr Fear Utd	(G Saunders)	602
160	Gibbins Terry Mark	(T Gibbins)	602
161	Red Star Richmond	(S T Glanville)	602
162	Lewsey Farm	(R Conway)	601
163	One Under Par	(C Bird)	601
164	Lila Gold To Me	(R Laskowski)	601
165	Pallisters Army	(J Pregon)	601
166	Shoot On Sight	(P Goldstraw)	600
167	Terryballers XI	(T McCallum)	600
168	Danny's Boys Team 2	(D Gouk)	600
169	Wells 5 Wonder	(A Wells)	599
170	Staves Lions 7	(S Brewer)	599
171	Clean Sheet XI	(I Rawlinson-Smith)	599
172	Northbank Cardigan	(S Smith)	599
173	Built Around Les	(J Pregon)	599
174	Seddon United	(T Armitage)	599
175	Inter Inca	(C Hall-Torrian)	599
176	Northern Naethers	(P Sanson)	599
177	Blomman	(R Wood)	599
178	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	598
179	The Tigers	(S Sahal)	598
180	The Condensers	(M Montgomery)	598

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189	188	Kims Kblers	(G Sutton)	596
190	188	Oldman 2	(K Porter)	596
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196	189	Dublin Bohemians	(G Brannigan)	596
197	189	Dynamic Dawdlers	(T Hazard)	596
198	189	Assured To Death	(G Smith)	596
199	189	Robbos Rangers	(R E Robinson)	596
200	200	The Mollsters	(C C Vevens)	596
201	200	PSV Winofian	(D Haycock)	596
202	200	Bathy Utd	(K Pitt)	596
203	200	The Mighty Dunston	(Dr Hart)	596
204	200	Fulham Second XI	(K Brown)	596
205	200	The Wings FC	(R Darlenzo)	596
206	200	Yardley Bobs	(P Adams)	595
207	207	Eddens Engineers	(R Edden)	594
208	207	Jimmy's Giants	(J Saunders)	594
209	207	Col's Duff Team	(C Yates)	594
210	207	Athletic Pillars	(A Shorney)	594
211	207	Carling XI	(P Parlor)	594
212	207	Cleopatra Four	(E J Kirby)	594
213	207	DM 002	(D McGargy)	594
214	207	Tort's Tormentors	(B Tort)	594
215	215	Warren Winifred	(J Buckle)	593
216	215	Stevens Lions 2	(S Brewer)	593
217	215	Tutteridge United	(D Seal)	593
218	215	Trellicks Town	(M Phillips)	593
219	215	The Missing Links	(R Gallagher)	593
220	215	Canzona Is God	(B Harrison)	593
221	221	Stevens Lions 1	(S Brown)	592
222	221	Rescue City	(J Sanderson)	592
223	221	Spirit Utd	(P Mason)	592
224	221	Central Park	(C Andrews)	592
225	221	Kings	(E M Young)	592
226	221	Tour De Force	(C Cullitz)	592
227	221	Fargies Fury	(P Simpson)	592
228	228	Kalyia Heroes	(K Ellicott)	591
229	228	Rueful Rabbits	(J Whateley)	591
230	228	Ashvale Town	(K Peggason)	591
231	228	The Fifty Granders	(R N Smith)	591
232	228	Portwinkle FC	(M Panesar)	591
233	228	Howett Thorpe 2nd X	(G Thorpe)	591
234	228	Filbo Foibles	(N Trotter)	591
235	228	Badsmen F	(D Mulholland)	591
236	228	Weest Ham Alliance	(P Cook)	591
237	237	CCFC Just Madmen	(P Ugrate)	590
238	237	The Spring Kids	(S Hargunani)	590
239	237	Rempstone Rovers	(N A Woodroffe)	590
240	237	Martha's Hevels	(F Mowens)	590
241	242	Madra Minors	(M Slade)	589
242	242	Clarendon City	(R Calder)	589
243	242	Barnthru	(M Minasian)	589
244	242	Skyline Sizzlers	(T Gordon)	589
245	242	HJEC Boys	(E Linsley)	589
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Frances Gibb reports on the run-up to the first war crimes trial since Nuremberg



The defence team photographed in The Hague last week: from left, Alphonse Ori, Sylvia de Bertodano, Michail Wladimoroff and Steven Kay, QC

A war trial for Bosnia

Today a Serbian former café owner stands accused of some of the worst atrocities arising from Bosnia's civil war.

Dusko Tadic, who was also a karate teacher, is alleged to have indulged in an "orgy of ethnic cleansing" against Muslims and Croats in 1992 when he ran the Omarska prison camp in Bosnia.

The indictment accuses him of taking part in the murder of 13 victims, including four who died at Omarska; of beating and mistreating 16; and of raping a woman. One prosecution document says that in June 1992 three prisoners were beaten by Mr Tadic and others "using metal rods, truncheons and knives to the point of unconsciousness."

The last of defending Mr Tadic is by any measure a

sensitive one. It has fallen to a defence team led by Professor Michail Wladimoroff, a renowned criminal lawyer with his own firm in The Hague which specialises in white-collar crime. With him is Alphonse Ori, a partner in the firm Professor Wladimoroff & Spong, and Steven Kay, QC, a British barrister who is acting as consultant.

Mr Kay, who has given up his position as secretary to the Criminal Bar Association to work at the war crimes tribunal over the next few months, says: "The issue in any 'not guilty' case is whether it can be

proved that someone committed the offence. Just because the prosecution say he did does not make them right."

Over the past months, time has been spent working out the ground rules and seeking, as far as possible, to anticipate any prosecution bias. "The prosecution has drafted the rules of evidence and pro-

cedure with United Nations advice. It is an example of how the State should not devise its own criminal justice system," he says.

"I have had to argue basic issues—such as why the defence should not disclose its witness statements and fundamental principles about prosecution disclosure—and we still don't have all the prosecution witness statements."

There have also been practical problems. Mr Kay has found himself travelling through Bosnian villages to locate witnesses and documents in effect doing the job both of investigator and pre-

paring the case. He, and later Sylvia de Bertodano, the team's research assistant, spent many days interviewing people through interpreters.

Many witnesses are not willing to come forward, fearful that they themselves might face war crimes charges. The team has asked the court to issue witness summons, and

there are three judges: Sir Ninian Stephen, an Australian High Court judge; Judge Gabrielle McDonald, a US federal judge; and Datuk Vohrah, a Malaysian High Court judge. Up to 150 witnesses are expected to testify in Mr Tadic's trial. The prosecution is led by Grant Niemann, the Deputy Director of Public Prosecution for South Australia who has experience of prosecuting three suspected Nazi war criminals.

The case is unlike many others in that Mr Tadic is a civilian. But it will be seen as a test of the tribunal's authority and will be closely watched by

the others stacking up behind "Pavo" Hazim Delic and Zdravko Mucic, among others. Robert Rhodes, QC, has been appointed as defence counsel in these cases, the first English barrister to be presenting a defence.

Whatever the outcome, the Hague tribunal must not be open to the criticism that were levelled at Nuremberg. Mr Kay argues. Those were condemned as "show trials, not properly conducted or presented". It is important, he says, that "any person accused of such serious crimes is properly defended".

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Beyond reasonable doubt, still a hit

Reginald Rose's play, *Twelve Angry Men*, is a classic text for students of trial by jury. The script is well known from Sidney Lumet's 1957 film in which Henry Fonda, as the eighth juror, tries to persuade his colleagues on a New York jury to consider the weaknesses in the prosecution case against a 16-year-old defendant on trial for the murder of his own father. The new production at the Comedy Theatre, directed by Harold Pinter, proves beyond a reasonable doubt that *Twelve Angry Men* retains its power to entertain and inform.

The play provides reassurance about the potential virtues of jury trial, and a lesson in civic duty for any prospective juror wanting to know what is expected of him or her at the Crown Court. Kevin Whately gives a commanding performance as the eighth juror, whose integrity and commitment to justice educate the other jurors about their responsibilities. He asks his colleagues, who are eager to convict, "to vote by secret written ballot. I'll abstain. If there are still 11 votes for guilty, I won't stand alone. We'll take a guilty verdict in to the judge right now. But if anyone votes not guilty, we'll stay and talk this thing out." He finds that he has one ally, who is prepared to take time to examine the evidence. The debate then begins.

A compelling cast of other jurors powerfully portrays a range of responses to the evidence, and to the prospect of sending the defendant to the electric chair, from the rationalism of Timothy West's logical fourth juror, to the racist bigotry of Peter Vaughan's chilling tenth juror. Reginald Rose's text echoes Anglo in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, reminding us that "the jury, passing on the prisoner's life, may in the sworn 12 have a thief or two guiltier than him they try".

Like the jury system it portrays, *Twelve Angry Men* is a passionate statement of basic liberal values: the triumph of reason over prejudice, the commitment to judging people (whether a defendant in a criminal trial, or the contribution of a potential juror) on their individual merits rather than by reference to their status or background, the recognition that the facts or values asserted by fallible human beings may be erroneous, and the confidence that free speech will expose and shame prejudice and improve the quality of decision-making.

For all its powerful advocacy, *Twelve Angry Men* fails to establish the case for jury trial. But for the exceptional eighth juror, the defendant would have been convicted after five minutes of deliberations. Instead of Henry Fonda or Whately, the eighth juror might resemble one of the jurors at the

Crown Court case in 1994 who decided to use an Ombudsman to consult the victim in an attempt to find out whether the defendant was guilty of murder.

Lawyers have strong opinions about the merits, and defects, of trial by jury. But whether they agree with Lord Devlin that the jury is "the lamp that shows that freedom lives", or share Mark Twain's opinion that the jury puts "a premium upon ignorance, stupidity and perjury", such legal judgments are based on speculation rather than information. The manner in which the jury performs its duties in the United Kingdom is a matter of conjecture because of the absolute prohibition imposed by Section 8 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981 on any research which asks members of juries how they conducted their deliberations.

Despite the recommendations from the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice and from the Law Commission for a change in the law to allow jury research conducted on behalf of the Lord Chancellor's Department, the senior judiciary is determined to prevent any light being focused on an institution which they appear to believe can survive only if protected from analysis.

On the stage, what happens in the jury room echoes the drama, the tragedy, and the farce of a criminal trial. But we simply do not know how often the fiction of *Twelve Angry Men* resembles fact. It is therefore impossible sensibly to discuss proposals to restrict the scope of jury trial (for example, in relation to allegations of serious fraud), or concern about whether juries understand the content of judges' directions on issues of law when the conduct of the jury remains a mystery, the workings of which are hinted at by the anecdotes of friends who have participated in its ceremonies, or the efforts of dramatists and actors.

It is one of the most remarkable features of a society timid about rational analysis of its institutions that there are stricter legal restraints on the publication of information about a jury's deliberations than there are on the publication of information which may endanger national security. Even under Section 8 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, Pinter and his cast cannot be prosecuted for portraying the deliberations of a fictional jury. But they are undoubtedly guilty of conspiring to produce a compelling theatrical experience which all lawyers will enjoy. Whately and his colleagues have done justice to an inspired and inspirational work of legal literature.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



DAVID PANNICK QC

Dusko Tadic's trial will be seen as a test of the authority of the war crimes tribunal

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The case is unlike many others in that Mr Tadic is a civilian. But it will be seen as a test of the tribunal's authority and will be closely watched by

the others stacking up behind "Pavo" Hazim Delic and Zdravko Mucic, among others. Robert Rhodes, QC, has been appointed as defence counsel in these cases, the first English barrister to be presenting a defence.

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A waiting game

Will Martin Means be moved in the June elections for president of the Law Society?

Current candidates are keeping mum, but a rival slate is reportedly headed either by Michael Napier, of the Sheffield firm law in Atchell, and president of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, or Tony Gilling, a long-standing central member who is now senior vice-president, and senior partner of the Marston Group.

Both candidates have strong support on the council, but are more of an unknown quantity in the profession at large, where Means derives his support. One Law Society insider comments: "They are terrified of standing and being defeated. But if they don't declare their colours soon, then they won't have much chance to raise their profiles in the profession."

If they don't come forward, it's a foregone conclusion. She has said she will fight Mr

Means for the second time if no one else is brave enough.

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Means for the

The public deserves more

Neil Addison reports on the progress of the Crown Prosecution Service, ten years after its optimistic start

Ten years ago this month, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) started operation. At that time there was a sense of optimism and idealism within the CPS. We were in at the birth of something new in the legal system, and we had a professional service which would be a comparison with the best in the world. Ten years on, and the CPS is one of the most criticised parts of the legal system. While some of those criticisms are justified, there is enough to cause real concern. The CPS has gone wrong in a number of ways, and it is not clear if the CPS exists to achieve its original purpose.

prosecutions within his area. Despite this, the Government formed the CPS as a unified national service within the Civil Service. When everything else was being privatised, prosecuting was nationalised. The CPS, which was fully operational by December 1986, got off to a bad start. It was formed too quickly and, particularly in London, was understaffed. However, we worked hard and over the first few years I think the CPS managed to become established and accepted. Since 1992, however, the CPS has been in a state of decline.

- It has a budget of just under £300 million.
- It handles 1.5 million cases a year in magistrates' courts, of which 126,000 go to the Crown Court.
- 12 per cent of its cases are discontinued.
- Its conviction rate is 90.3 per cent of all Crown Court cases, including guilty pleas.
- Its conviction rate in "not guilty" Crown Court cases is 58 per cent.
- It employs 6,500 people, of whom 2,200 are lawyers.

working" destroyed team-working and is typical of the Orwellian double-speak of CPS management. When the pilot branches proved that the scheme was unworkable, they were told that because it was CPS policy it had to work. If it did not work, it was their fault. It could not be the fault of management.

law enforcement and prosecuting decisions are simply legal but have implications for policing and law order generally. To make the CPS work fundamental changes are needed. The CPS should be under the Home Secretary, not the Attorney-General. Ministers cannot both be responsible for law enforcement. The CPS should be broken up, with local prosecutors appointed to each police force area. Posts should be publicly advertised and not mere inter-appointments. There should also be an independent body of inspectors to inspect judges, magistrates, police and lawyers to inspect reports on prosecution standards. England and Wales need a better prosecuting service than it has. CPS staff deserve better. Given the structure, given the leadership and a sense of purpose, they could be a better prosecuting service.



Neil Addison's article in Law last Tuesday: he should not be so dismissive of an organisation that makes the best use of its staff, says Graham Duff, above. After last week's criticism, Graham Duff leaps to defend the Crown Prosecution Service

Hit and myth with the CPS

For someone who was employed by the Crown Prosecution Service in the past, Neil Addison (Law, April 30) ought to know better. I have worked as a prosecutor at all levels, both before and after the establishment of the CPS, and I believe that it is worth reflecting on just how much we have achieved in our ten years of service. Prosecuting has become more difficult. Increasing demands have been made, particularly in relation to the speed of case preparation, decision-making and the requirements of, for instance, disclosure. Against this background, prosecuting 1.4 million cases annually in 400,000 magistrates' courts' sittings is a substantial achievement just in logistical terms, apart from the very high conviction rate — 98 per cent in magistrates' courts and 90 per cent in Crown Court.

and influence, both within the service and outside, as it has now. The change from 31 to 13 areas reinforced the position of the branch and emphasised its accountability. Another change to 43 would not be decentralisation, as Mr Addison suggests — quite the reverse, when control and responsibility are already situated in 99 locations. The process continues: responsibility for certain types of case-work which have historically, even before 1986, always been dealt with in London, is now about to be devolved to local offices. A system of team working has gradually been introduced into branches. Interestingly, the impetus to move in this direction came from branch level, where those doing the job and doing it well, had sufficient vision to see that it could be done even better and more efficiently. They saw that cultural

barriers needed to be dismantled so that the effort of all the members of the branch would be better directed for the benefit of the case-work. It is regrettable that Mr Addison is dismissive of an organisation that makes the best use of the skills and the knowledge of its staff. The CPS is not just 2,200 lawyers; there are, in addition, 4,000 staff who are not solicitors or barristers. Every single individual has an important contribution to make in a co-operative effort in all of the offices across England and Wales. Teamworking has also strengthened and brought closer the match with police basic command units. It is also very sad that when Mr Addison was prosecuting he seems to have regarded the Statement of Purpose and Values as "inane" — appearing to sneer at an attitude to the public which is open and helpful, and not recognising this as

another level of excellence to which the staff aspire above and beyond the conduct of prosecutions. Since 1992 greater openness has been a genuine feature of our approach. Of even more concern, as someone whose job it was to apply the Code for Crown Prosecutors, is his apparent failure to identify within it those elements which reflect an appreciation of the wider implications of prosecuting decisions. The CPS has made a telling contribution to the development of the criminal justice system. The national structure which supports branch operations enables the CPS to implement any practice agreed with other agencies more effectively and efficiently than otherwise. The introduction of a programme of charging standards has received widespread support and represents a significant step towards consistency — a consideration which Mr

Addison may recall featured significantly in the creation of the CPS. The system and the public benefit from the cohesive nature of the organisation and its catalytic effect on others. Unsurprisingly, recent initiatives, such as arrangements whereby police and CPS jointly monitor performance, focus on the CPS branch as the operational unit which best brings together the local interests. The recent review of the senior management of the service has resulted in a slimming-down of both national and area headquarters, shorter lines of communication, more opportunities to guide policy decisions, and the impetus for even more devolution. We have decentralised, not centralised. We believe this is the best way of maintaining and improving upon the hard-won achievements of everyone at operational level. In an environment which is likely to remain volatile, the concept of a national service delivered locally provides the flexibility to meet challenges. Added to this is accountability for high quality standards and consistency, and the commitment to continue to improve the service to the public. The author is director of casework services, Crown Prosecution Service

Partners fall out of step

Many law firms have voted to bring in a performance-related pay system

Many of the top City law firms are unhappy with the traditional way of paying their partners, according to a survey published today. But they are finding it difficult to put an alternative in place. The survey, by the consultants A.T. Kearney, shows that almost 60 per cent of leading law firms believe that performance-related pay is now appropriate for their equity partners. This is a slap in the face for the traditional "lock-step" system by which a partner's salary increases year on year — normally in a series of ten steps — regardless of merit or productivity. Anna Ponton who organised the survey for A.T. Kearney, says: "By far the majority of respondents believed in performance-related pay. Only 20 per cent answered in the negative." In an age of deference to seniority and experience, lock-step worked satisfactorily. However, as solicitors have had to work increasingly hard to retain clients and attract new business, there is less regard for past achievements. What matters now to most lawyers, especially younger partners, is current results. Quite apart from the challenge of devising an acceptable performance-related mechanism, the problems of dismantling current lock-step are horrendous. Robert Martin, the legal services consultant at Coopers & Lybrand, is now doing a lot of work in this field. He is, however, aware that lock-step remains the norm. For that reason, he is inserting detailed questions about performance-related pay into his firm's annual survey on the financial management of law firms, which is widely regarded as the industry bible. He says: "There are challenges involved in moving from

lock-step to performance-based pay and that is why you need to be inventive in creating systems, which introduce elements of the new into the structure of the old." One method he favours is to insert a "landing" into the lock-step. This means that equity partners can progress upwards for, say, five years until they reach a plateau at which they remain until they can demonstrate, through exceptional performance, that they merit moving up to the higher levels. Some firms have already gone a long way towards a performance-related system. Dibley Lupton Broomhead, for example, could always be relied on to be the most radical of these matters. It has operated what David Liddle, the finance director, calls a meritocracy since at least the late 1980s. "Our performance-related remuneration system may," he says, "be a little unusual — but for us it reflects completely the firm's culture." To make it work, however, requires a lot of measuring and judging. A remuneration committee, which is part of the firm's board of management, makes most of the decisions, although the overall package has to be approved by the partnership as a whole. In such a system each partner knows exactly what everyone else has earned and can see how the pecking order has changed year on year. Inevitably, there are disappointments, but the firm believes that it is the only way to operate a modern law business. Others, however, remain to be convinced — not least, perhaps, the middle-aged who believe they have worked for their days of ease and are not going to be denied them now. EDWARD FENNELL



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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IN-HOUSE FINANCE LIT. Major finance institution seeks solicitor or barrister with between 1-4 years' litigation experience with some regulatory and finance knowledge. An excellent opportunity for a City lawyer to kick start their career into the in-house arena. Very good prospects and extremely well paid. Ref: T27792	To £68,000 Car Chen is a top City firm with a team of first rate banking specialists. They are looking for an additional solicitor with between 1-4 years' experience in acquisition, finance, asset, finance and project finance matters. You will have gained your experience at another top City player. Ref: T21647
IN-HOUSE FINANCE Major financial institution seeks junior capital markets lawyer. This is not a straight forward banking position. Ideally someone with between 1-5 years' experience in capital markets or derivatives or even plain banking background to take on a more specialist role. Somebody who is confident and mature, who will relish the prospect of taking forward this excellent position. Ref: T27543	JNR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY Leading top 5 Birmingham firm with blue chip client base now seeks a junior commercial property lawyer with 0-1 year relevant experience to undertake a broad range of securities and corporate related commercial property work. Acting for some of the UK's leading companies, this is an exceptional opportunity to join a firm renowned for its team environment and working atmosphere. Ref: T21954
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US COMPANY/COMMERCIAL As a senior company/commercial lawyer with at least 5 years' experience gained in a City firm, this is a unique opportunity to join a highly respected and profitable US practice and to play a lead role in their London office. Excellent career prospects and, for the right individual, immediate partnership awaits. Significant rewards are on offer. Ref: T27787	SENIOR COMPETITION/EC Are you a senior competition/EC expert looking for a fresh challenge in a progressive and forward thinking environment? Our client has an excellent opportunity for an associate or partner with strong contacts — a following would be an advantage but not essential. With a strong personality you must be keen on practice and client development. Ref: T24969
INSURANCE LITIGATION A leading City firm with a strong reputation in the insurance field now seeks to further strengthen its insurance litigation department with lawyers with between 2-8 years' experience gained in the professional indemnity or general commercial litigation field. A truly exceptional opportunity for talented lawyers with good academic backgrounds and a desire to work in one of the most highly respected firms. Ref: T20064	EMPLOYMENT Top City firm seeks an employment lawyer with a mixture of contentious and non-contentious experience. With in the region of 1-3 years' exp you will have gained your experience with another well respected City practice. With very broad based experience you will be given a significant amount of responsibility and client contact. Ref: T26865

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BRIEFINGS

Help on industrial relations comes in a new series of Factsheets for Small Firms, outlining employment law topics. They cover dismissal, redundancy, suspension, maternity rights, itemised pay statements, racial discrimination, sex discrimination and equal pay, time off work, trade union membership and employment terms. They can be ordered singly or as a set from DTI Small Firms Publications, 0171-510 0169 (fax: 0171-510 0170).

Business Networking-Essex, a three-day event to help smaller manufacturing and service companies to win orders by exhibiting and having pre-booked meetings with targeted clients from Britain and abroad, is at Brentwood International Centre from May 21. It is co-ordinated by Essex Economic Development Forum (01245 450123).

Self-employed builders, seen as high-risk customers by insurers, are being offered life assurance for ten years with a minimum premium of £5 a month. The policy, from B&CE Insurance, requires answers to three questions but no medical, does not discriminate against smokers and gives £56,000 maximum cover. Details: 01347 714714.

Advice on importing is offered by John Wilson, a trade consultant, in *Getting Started in Importing* (Kogan Page, £9.99), aimed at firms that import goods to use or retail, as well as at import firms.

Tony Beechey, chairman of the British Marine Industries Federation, is now chairman of Surrey Tec.

Alan Jabez meets a couple whose sporting prowess has spawned a successful company

WHEN Alistair and Marianne Wilson competed in the sprint canoeing competitions at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, they both took away memories they will savour for the rest of their lives.

They believe their efforts in reaching the pinnacle of their sport have also helped them to achieve success in their paddle-making company and hope to steer a profitable course at this year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia.

They formed the company, Lendal Products, in 1971, in Mr Wilson's home town of Prestwick, near Ayr. Mr Wilson had always enjoyed using his hands and thinking of new designs so he saw it as a natural progression to design his own paddle. As the design of the paddle plays a big part in its performance, he felt his own experience in the sport gave him ideas other canoeists would appreciate.

Originally, all the components were wood and it would take several days to make one paddle. But they took off and news of their performance spread around the canoeing world and soon exports overtook demand from Britain.

Their innovative instincts result-



Tried and tested: Alistair and Marianne Wilson use their own paddles while canoeing off Ailsa Craig

ed in fibreglass shafts and carbon composite blades and they later became the first company to mould a grip into the shaft to cut weight. As demand grew, Mr Wilson designed and built a tube-making works at their factory. The change in working practices means they can now turn out a new paddle every few minutes. With the sport still enjoying growing partici-

have doubled production in the last three years and have very little spare capacity," said Mr Wilson, who feels they may be shortly forced to seek larger premises. Expansion has mainly been financed via profits though they received an innovation award from the Scottish Office in 1994 which gave them 50 per cent of their capital costs to make thermal plastic blades.

Cry for help in the procurement process

BY RODNEY HOBSON

SMALL and medium-sized businesses are being shut out of public procurement, according to a research report by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

The report argues that a range of government initiatives, including incentives and subsidies, is required to encourage small businesses to take part in the public procurement process.

Small businesses are overwhelmingly in favour of legislation to help them to win public contracts, the report says. They are confused about current regional policies at European and national level and most believe the Government has a responsibility to help them in public markets.

Although small and medium enterprises represent 64 per cent of European Union turnover and 79 per cent of the workforce, their share of public procurement schemes is only 15 per cent, and only 14.3 per cent in the UK.

The report's author is Christopher Bovis, deputy director of the Institute of European Public Law at the University of Hull. He argues that encouraging more small businesses to take part in public procurement would bring social and economic benefits.

He describes the low level of participation as alarming, since public procurement schemes represent an important and relatively

stable market. His research identified a number of factors inhibiting small businesses: the length of time and cost of preparing bids with no guarantee of success; scarce management resources; inability to speak foreign languages; delays in payment; the relatively large size of the contracts; lack of information and advice.

Small firms suggested several ways to offset the disadvantages, including giving small businesses preference in disadvantaged areas. Authorities could be obliged to split up contracts or successful tenderers could be forced to subcontract a percentage of the work.

The report suggests that the role of the Board of Trade and chambers of commerce in providing technical assistance and support to small businesses could be strengthened.



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ABSOLUTELY Genuine No Risk. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

ABSOLUTELY Genuine No Risk. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

LOANS & INVESTMENT

A 5-DAY Mortgage or loan. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

ANY PURPOSE loan / mortgage. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

FINANCE AVAILABLE for. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

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BUSINESS SERVICES

A BASE in Marble Arch. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

ANY VALID Debt recovered for. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

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IMPORT & EXPORT

GSM Cellular telephones. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

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WHOLESALES

CITIBOX 18 Kensington. Selling. Call 0171 510 0169.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: British Petroleum (Q1), British Sky Broadcasting (Q3), Neilson Cobbold Holdings, Premium Underwriting, Schroder Income Growth, Strategem Group, Finais: Chiroscience Group, Glaves Group, Montano UK Smaller Companies Investment Trust.

TOMORROW

Interim: Avon Rubber, Ericsson (Q4), Holmes & Merchant Group, Royal Bank of Scotland, Sanderson Electronics, Tate & Lyle, Tilton Holdings, Finais: Beattie (James), DCC, German Smaller Companies Investment Trust, Govett Oriental Investment Trust, Navan Resources, Nynex Cablecom, J Sainsbury, Saracen Value Trust, Securities Trust of Scotland, Sidlaw Group, Whitbread, Economic statistics: CBI-BSL quarterly regional trends survey, monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

THURSDAY

Interim: Capital Radio, Clyde Blowers, Irish Bank Corporation, Lynx Holdings, Royal Dutch/Shell (Q1), Royal Insurance Holdings (Q1), Tomkins, Vaux Group, Finais: N Brown, Prowling, Scottish Power, Silentnight Holdings, Uglend International, Warner Howard, Economic statistics: Index of production (March).

FRIDAY

Interim: None scheduled. Finais: Audax Properties, BS Group, Hawtrey Whiting Holdings, I&S UK Smaller Companies, Value & Income Trust, Economic statistics: CBI (April), cyclical indicators (April).

SUNDAY TIPS

Mail On Sunday: Buy Royal Doulton, Beaufort, Wyndham Press; Sell La Senza, Sunday Times; Buy Cookson, Streamliner, Chiroscience, Rank Org; Hold Wux; Sell Cable and Wireless, Chesterton. Independent on Sunday: Buy Camella, Bull, City Technology, Sage; Hold Smith and Nephew; Sell Sema, Kwik Save. Sunday Telegraph: Buy SmithKline Beecham, Hewlett, Pelicon, Tamaris, Caverdale; Sell Courtauld.

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

Store wars focus on Sainsbury

J SAINSBURY: Tomorrow's full-year results will be watched closely for the latest news on current trading and any update on a much needed marketing campaign as the supermarket group battles for market share.

There have been fears that Sainsbury is lagging behind leading competitors as the food price wars rage on and rival supermarket groups fight it out for customer loyalty. Lower full-year profits are widely expected after the group shocked the City in January by effectively issuing a profits warning, priming the market for its first profits fall in 20 years as a public company.

Nick Bubb, of Mees Pierson, has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £770 million, down from £808 million last time. Market forecasts range from £750 million to £770 million. A dividend of 12.4p (11.7p) is predicted.

Attention will focus on like-for-like sales growth, which has been flat and is seen as lagging behind major competitors such as Tesco, Sainsbury and Asda.

BRITISH PETROLEUM: Buoyant crude oil prices and a cold winter will provide a boost to this week's profit figures from the two leading oil giants, with BP reporting first-quarter figures today and Shell, its Anglo-Dutch rival, due to report on Thursday.

Both are expected to show a downturn on their chemical businesses from last time, while refining and marketing are likely to be mixed. Higher crude prices should offset the damaging effects of the recent price wars waged on the garage forecourt, with BP expected to see a 13 per cent rise in first-quarter clean replacement cost net income to £522 million (£461 million), according to Nick Antill, of BZW.

A dividend of 4.5p (3p) is predicted. Mr Antill is using a crude oil price of \$17.90 a barrel in his calculations, against \$16.72 a barrel in the comparative period.

SHELL TRANSPORT & TRADING: BZW expects the higher oil price and cold winter to help Shell's clean replacement cost net income, due on Thursday, to advance to £1.32 billion (£1.24 billion) in the first quarter. However, Mr Antill expects earnings at Shell to be affected by a deregulation-driven petrol price collapse in Japan, where it is one of the largest refiners.



Peter Wood, founder of Direct Line, and George Mathewson, of Royal Bank of Scotland.

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND: The bank, of which George Mathewson is chief executive, has braced the City for a less spectacular performance from Direct Line, the phone insurance business founded by Peter Wood, which has come under increasing competition

from copy-cat operations. However, falling bad debt provisions should offset that and help to lift first-half profits, due tomorrow, to £295 million (£270 million), according to UBS. Market forecasts range from £257 million to £300 million. UBS predicts a dividend of 5.3p (4.6p).

Market attention will focus on results from Direct Line, which in previous years has been one of the main drivers behind profits growth. Analysts expect profitability at the unit to be dented by an increase in claims because of extreme weather in the period

and a fall in premium levels as competition in the sector intensifies.

BRITISH SKY BROADCASTING: The satellite television group, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, will today beam in results for the third quarter of its financial year.

Steady progress in new dish and cable connections has been achieved and advertising is moving in the right direction, although the cost of programmes is rising. UBS, hoping for news on

proposed European investments with the results announcement, expects to see a 40 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £69 million.

TATE & LYLE: Tomorrow's first-half profits from the sugar to sweeteners group are likely to show evidence of a poor performance from Staley, the US sweeteners business. Staley, the main profits driver, will have found the going tough, with operating profits forecast to fall by up to 30 per cent as it feels the effects of higher raw material costs, increased industry capacity and the competitive state of the US corn syrup market.

Tim Potter, of Merrill Lynch, has pencilled in interim pre-tax profits of £158 million (£165.4 million), although last time's figures included a £12.6 million exceptional reorganisation charge. Market forecasts range from £157 million to £160 million. A dividend of 5.2p (5p) is predicted.

WHITBREAD: The brewing to leisure group is expected to report a modest rise in its full-year profits tomorrow, with the UK Marriott Hotels and David Lloyd Leisure operations providing the real engine for growth.

UBS is looking for final pre-tax profits of £276 million (£255 million), with a dividend of 21.3p (20.2p) predicted. Market forecasts range from £275 million to £287 million. Analysts expect the 16 Marriott hotels and the David Lloyd Leisure health and sports club businesses to add a combined £10 million to profits.

They also expect the Whitbread Inns division to show double-digit profit growth even though Christmas and New Year's Eve both fell on a Sunday, discouraging the traditionally high number of pub-goers.

N BROWN: The home shopping retailer that last November launched an unsuccessful bid for Littlewoods, in conjunction with Ireland, should report a solid set of full-year figures on Thursday. Tony Shire, of BZW, the house broker, forecasts an advance in final pre-tax profits to £30.5 million (£26.5 million), with a dividend of 5.5p (4.8p) predicted.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Rates top the agenda for Chancellor

The potential for an interest rate cut will be the main economic talking point this week as Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, prepares to meet Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, at their crucial monthly meeting tomorrow.

With recent economic data suggesting that gross domestic product (GDP) growth is below trend and that the manufacturing sector is on the verge of recession, economic and political demands for a rate cut have been growing. But the Governor is likely to point to other data showing that consumer spending is beginning to take off, which normally results in higher inflation and a deterioration in the trade deficit.

A rate cut could come as early as Thursday, but the Chancellor may well feel it would be risky to reduce rates now, only to have to reverse the cuts shortly before the general election. The meeting will overshadow an otherwise quiet week for economic statistics, although the data is expected to confirm the increasingly divergent nature of the economy. On Thursday, the UK industrial production figures are expected to show only a very slight upturn in manufacturing output, with a forecast 0.2 per cent rise for March taking yearly growth to 0.4 per cent.

But industrial output as a whole is expected to remain weak, with the market predicting no growth in March and just a 0.3 per cent rise for the year. In contrast, further evidence of the strength of Britain's retail sector is expected to be provided by the Confederation of British Industry's distributive trades and cyclical indicators, which are published on Friday.

In the US, the focus will be on the possibility of further rate increases as the consumer credit figures are published today. The figures are expected to show steady growth at \$11.5 billion for March.

On Wednesday, the Federal Reserve Bank will offer evidence of how it views the state of the US economy with the publication of its Beige Book. The book should provide a clue to the Fed's thinking ahead of the Open Market Committee Meeting on May 21. Economists believe that the Fed will leave interest rates untouched at the meeting but the Beige Book should help clarify the Bank's medium-term thinking over the conflicting data emerging from the US economy. But the US Producer Price Index (PPI), published on Friday, is expected to show little movement, with a monthly gain for March of 0.5 per cent matching a similar rise in February. The yearly rate is predicted to rise 0.2 per cent from February to 2.6 per cent. Any rise in the PPI above the forecasts will prompt fears of inflation.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

Nabarro woos friends in north

BY JON ASHWORTH

NABARRO Nathanson, the fast-growing commercial law firm, unveils a £2 million centre in Sheffield today as part of a concerted drive to woo big business in the north of England. The London firm has closed its regional offices in Doncaster and Hull and expanded its Sheffield operation to form the new National Centre for Law in Industry.

The move reverses the trend set by regional firms such as

Dibb Lupton Broomhead, which have expanded aggressively into the London market. Richard Holt, partner in charge of the new centre, said: "We looked at ourselves in the north and found we had particular skills in environmental issues, dealing with trade unions and so on. The centre enables us to provide concentrated legal expertise to manufacturers in the region, as well as the UK as whole."

Nabarro has organised 200 partners and fee earners into industry-based groups covering areas such as environment, health and safety, intellectual property and pensions.

The centre is aimed at manufacturing companies in the minerals, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and engineering sectors. Clients include RJB Mining, inherited through a merger with British Coal's legal department in 1989. The firm also acts for financial services companies such as HSBC and Eagle Star, manufacturers including Coats Vella and Blue Circle, and retailers ranging from J Sainsbury to Body Shop.



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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5028 (-0.0076)
German mark 2.2952 (-0.0130)
Exchange index 83.7 (-0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2803.5 (-58.8)
FT-SE 100 3751.6 (-81.2)
New York Dow Jones 5478.03 (-89.96)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 21662.38 (-572.65)

BESPOKE TAILORING
2pc Suits from £895
Blazers from £595
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Market's capitalisation tops £3 billion

THE flood of entrants looking to join the Alternative Investment Market for smaller and growing companies is set to continue this week, with share turnover levels reaching new peaks last week and the market's capitalisation topped £3 billion for the first time.

David Abraham, a dealer at Waterford Securities, a market-maker in all AIM

stocks, said: "Turnover levels last week were at the highest we have seen since AIM began. Bargain figures have been about 20 per cent up on their previous highs."

The number of companies traded on AIM has grown to 142, compared with just ten listed when the market started on June 19 last year. Capitalisation has expanded to £3.08

billion, while a total of £260.7 million has been raised.

La Senza, the specialist lingerie and sleepwear retailer, last week unveiled plans to join via a £19.4 million placing on Wednesday. The company, which is 100 per cent owned by a private shareholder, is capitalising the group at £50.3 million. The company has 22 lingerie shops across the UK and a five-year plan for a

further 152 outlets. Mr Abraham said: "The issue has been oversubscribed by at least two times. We expect a premium of about 25p to 30p over the 150p placing price."

C.A. Coutts, the packaging company, is also expected to see a premium of between 25p to 30p over its 105p-a-share placing price when dealings begin on Thursday.

Gold Mines of Sardinia plans to float in early June. A placing, sponsored by Williams de Brots, will raise about £5.5 million, capitalising the group at about £20 million.

Pricing details are due this week from Whitecross Group, a London chain of six high street dental practices. Whitecross hopes to raise about £1.5 million through a placing, capitalising it at about £6 million. It plans to use the proceeds to open ten new dental practices over the next three years. Dealings should begin on May 17.

Waterfall Holdings, the snooker to pool clubs group in which First Leisure has a 25 per cent stake, enjoyed a healthy debut on AIM last week. The shares swiftly moved to a big premium over the 45p placing price, touching 57p at one stage, before slipping back to end the week with a more modest premium.

PHILIP PANGALOS

The Scottish Provident Institution

The 158th Annual General Meeting of members of the Scottish Provident Institution will be held on Tuesday 28 May 1996 at 12 noon in the Caledonian Hotel, Princes Street, Edinburgh, to consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to determine the remuneration of the Directors and to elect Messrs Coopers & Lybrand as Auditors.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from this address.

By order of the Board of Directors

G Henderson Secretary

7-11 Melville Street Edinburgh EH3 7YZ

30 April 1996

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET													
1996	Low	Mid cap	Price	Why	Yld	P/E	1996	Low	Mid cap	Price	Why	Yld	P/E
High		(million)	per share	change	%		High		(million)	per share	change	%	
134	109	18.10	AMCO Corp	127 + 8	4.4	14.0	95	85	London Asia Pk	85			
58	18	2.37	Abacus Recruit	43			5	2	46.00 Ldn Fiduciary	46	4p +		
128	120	22.00	Active Imaging	120 - 15			70	55	1.45 London Town	58 + 3			
140	123	20.50	A de Brocy	140 + 1	5.0	11.6	245	200	14.00 Lorient dig	245	1.9		
109	17	1.75	Alcan Gold	109 + 17			124	100	10.00 More & Vegas	124	2.4	23.0	
14	13	5.20	Albion & Bd	14			138	113	14.80 Marine & Merc S	123 - 7			
24	17	8.44	Alpha Online	18 + 7			117	92	44.80 Megamedia	104 + 5			
415	380	37.30	Ann St Brewery	380	5.5	11.7	99	70	Megamedia Wts	89 + 2			
895	885	5.30	Ann St Pk	895	8.9		111	88	6.65 Megatex	106		9.0	
121	83	66.10	Antony	99 - 5			475	125	106.60 Memory Corp	160 - 20			
9	8	1.88	Arion Props	8			22	20	5.75 Metrodome Films	20 - 1			
88	68	14.10	Kat Central	88 + 15			285	158	17.50 Monopoly	230	2.4	23.6	
61	58	1.08	Arden Trust	61			15	10	15.10 Mountcash	10		41.7	
6	5	6.02	Ballynary	5			89	67	54.20 MultiMedia	84 + 1			
20	17	5.13	Bark Higgs	20 + 1			340	285	21.80 NMF Gp	290	2.8	14.0	
40	43	3.55	Bellcam	40			210	175	14.10 Nash (Wm)	200	4.3		
150	140	0.99	Bowman Lts	140	3.9		838	745	8.98 Nash Clark	735 + 10	2.1	17.2	
70	70	1.00	Bowman Lts	70			365	200	10.00 Neilson Cabbad	365 + 145	1.3	18.5	
66	50	11.40	Brancote Hds	66 + 3			73	65	Norcity II	73			
358	240	41.50	Brookbank	358	2.8		73	63	Norhomas	65			
120	116	0.96	CCI Hds	120			75	65	7.45 Nth Polim	65			
110	110	0.13	CCI Founder Sls	110			8	6	0.13 Nth Polim Wts	8			
185	95	5.09	Cale Ints	178	1.4	14.6	116	111	Nthm Res Pys	60 + 2	1.3	33.1	
78	75	2.07	Capital & Wain	78	2.4		124	124	17.50 Old English Pub	115	12 + 14		
9	7	12.60	Cardiac	78 - 5	0.9	17.0	136	84	8.33 Orlanica	135 + 10	0.5		
83	58	15.30	Cardi Care	68 - 2			68	51	13.80 Ormanmedia	56 - 2			
72	60	1.79	Cassidy Bps	68	6.0	8.8	88	66	22.70 Optical Care	96			
43	41	1.79	Cassidy Bps	68			13	1	2.10 Scotland Ints	1			
18	18	5.26	Celebrated Group	18			85	43	Pacific Med Pk	85 + 31			
5175	6550	42.90	Celtic	1165 + 2000			109	174	38.50 Pan Andean Res	96 + 25			
1175	5650	16.40	CJ Concorde	1175 + 1500			395	190	1.54 Park Esp(Lw)	190	3.4		
124	109	16.40	CJ Concorde	122		15.7	445	365	97.80 Pet City	403 + 8			
86	70	7.04	Charwell Int	86 - 2			169	125	26.80 Polymaze Pharms	144			
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110			470	400	6.06 Preston Nth E	470 + 20			
125	105	13.10	Chatterbox	125	3.1		105	105	16.60 Ramsey Hm Fr	103			
510	510	12.20	Com de Pk Fin	510			38	32	3.42 Raphael Zn	38 + 3	4.1	23.8	
44	37	8.75	Concorde Tsl	40	5.0	10.0	105	96	1.02 Revelation Pk	95 - 5			
85	58	15.30	Country Gds	83	...		17	16	10.63 Ricman Ints	16			
78	70	2.86	Coty Gds Pk	78	...		63	56	2.95 Romica	76			
109	87	31.30	Crest Int	87	...		68	51	13.80 Romica	56 - 2			
63	53	22.00	Crown Products	58	...		88	66	22.70 Optical Care	96			
210	152	13.70	Cyber Management	152 + 200	3.7	8.2	126	33	2.10 Scotland Ints	31			
36	34	3.79	David Glass	35	...		31	20	Pacific Med Pk	85 + 31			
1275	880	57.20	Dawson Hds	1250	3.0	33.6	43	28	38.50 Pan Andean Res	96 + 25			
125	103	40.50	Dea Media	107	1.8		320	270	1.54 Park	270	14.0	5.4	
375	305	4.09	Deen Corp	345 + 1			2	3	2.39 Self Sealing	41 - 2			
75	90	12.80	Demetel	68			2	2	Silkspan	2			
127	90	12.80	Demetel	90 - 10			4	3	Sira Bus Serv	4			
200	180	69.80	Dynaphonics	108			1	1	Sira Bus Wts	1			
178	120	5.40	Euro Sales Fm	145			595	524	0.270 Southern News	502 - 2	3.4	15.3	
345	325	5.77	Falk Pkts	345			88	50	Southern News	88			
250	75	1.77	Fid Pkts	245			615	255	9.00 Stanford Rock	528 - 5			
180	53	10.00	Fitzroy	145 - 10			86	75	9.00 Stentor	86			
183	170	36.10	Finn Ints	175			715	502	7.25 Swift Fr Ints	502	1.2	24.7	
220	188	5.51	Flonemes	218	+ 5	1.5	136	116	16.50 SVL Inter Rchb	116			
340	315	7.06	Flora	266	+ 5	15.4	915	585	34.90 TRACKER Network	660 + 5			
103	136	17.70	Fontanna	168 + 5	1.5	21.9	185	180	39.80 Tradepoint Fcl	185			
26	14	91.70	Freepassgo	118 - 2	2.7		43	25	Tale Crest Wts	31 + 6			
915	83	5.75	Furlong Homes	83			116	101	17.80 Tatl	106 - 2			
22	15	5.40	Greenbills	17			170	165	Trelli Care	170		1.0	
147	145	32.40	Gulton	145			74	46	Tunley Care Pl	107			
41	23	2.34	Hazcom	140	3.4		42	30	337.90 Incadent	368 + 2			
133	120	59.00	Hazzard Dst Ints	135			458	391	7.00 Idd Auctions	395			
80	70	0.82	Hingham	80			307	147	14.90 VDC	305			
122	105	1.01	Radio Rds	102			15	10	44.00 Versatiles Gp	100 + 2	1.3	13.4	
88	85	14.70	Inner Workings	88			325	130	8.00 Viewpoint	300 + 25			
523	503	21.50	Int'l Greetings	513	1.2		428	232	Vers	373			
143	106	51.00	Int'l Ind	106			13	7	Westlawn Grs	87			
103	83	3.71	Jazmin	91 - 2	2.5	13.7	170	170	World Seas Int	170	+ 1		
315	280	22.00	Jerome's Bros	315	2.5	22.6	19	13	5.25 Western Selecton	15		59.7	
125	103	40.50	K3 Diarmida	105 - 5	3.0	13.3	6	5	5.21 Western Sel Wrt	5			
180	157	29.00	Lancashire Fin	157			31	26	3.07 Western Sel Wrt	26			
250	210	15.00	Lawrence	250			75	46	5.37 Wmchester M Mid	48 - 3			
2750	2550	49.80	Lewine Group	2550	3.5	13.0	145	125	Wynshall Progs	125			
285	255	44.80	Lt Pkchz Shs	270 + 5	7.1	25.4	300	170	25.80 Zing	280 - 5			

By CARL MORTISHED

Local residents intend to fight the approval:

Eddie Oliver, a KPMG partner, said: "We consulted a

KPMG's assumptions do not include the cost of any levy from the Port of London Authority, which could require developers to bid for the site.



FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A MARKET trial of a smokeless cigarette developed in the United States will be announced in Germany and Sweden today. The carbon-tipped brand is being promoted by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. as reducing second-hand smoke by nearly 90 per cent. Reynolds' makers of Camel and other

Last week, the company launched a similar test programme in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In the US, the cigarette will be

sold under the name Eclipse. In Germany, it will be known as HI.Q and in Sweden as Inside.

The cigarette works by heating tobacco rather than burning it. The carbon tip acts as a mini-stove, enabling smokers to draw hot air through the tobacco to extract the nicotine. They exhale a stream of vapour that rapidly dissipates.

Sir Desmond, 61, is chairman of United Utilities, the combined North West Water and Norweb company. Littlewoods, owned by the Moores family, declined to comment on the matter.

British Airways has extended its franchise operations beyond the UK. Jetstream commuter aircraft of Sun-Air, the Danish regional airline, will bear BA livery and flight numbers.

Sheffield deal

Let
be li

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

SIMCHAH
(b) A Jewish private party or celebration. From the Hebrew *simhā* rejoicing. *Jewish Chronicle*, 1973: "Arkay caterers. Specialists in home, hall and marquee catering for all occasions."


TAUPE
(a) A brownish shade of grey resembling the colour of moleskin.
French, from the Latin *talpa* a mole. "Pearl, smoke, taupe and
then soft becoming shades of grey."

TORSCHLUSSPANTIK
(c) A sense of alarm or anxiety (said to be experienced particularly in middle age) caused by the suspicion that life's opportunities are passing (or have passed) one by. Specifically that manifested in an ageing woman who longs to (re)discover the (sexual) excitement of youth, and who fears being left on the shelf. From the German for "shut door (or gate) panic." "She [sic, Mme de Staël] is perhaps history's most outstanding case of *Torschlusspantik*, the panic at the shutting of the door."

(c) A gypsy. A Zigeunerbaron is a gypsy baron, in allusion to the opera *The Zigeunerbaron* (1885) by Johann Strauss. German cognate with *zingaro*, *zingaro*. Title of a wilting Noel Coward song. "He was a violinist, a travelling musician. His coat had a black fur collar; he looked somewhat like a refined

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Let there
be light.

A white semi-circle is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image, set against a solid black background. The semi-circle is perfectly white and has a smooth, clean edge.

Light may travel at 186,000 miles a second.
But it can come to a standstill when it hears words like "Tunnel".

Mindful of this, the government chose McKenna & Co as the law firm to help it achieve the successful award of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link concession.

At £2.7 billion it is the largest Private Finance Initiative in the UK.

And we helped its progress despite widely disparate public and private sector interests.

As well as mountains of technicality.
Today, more than ever, McKenna & Co is the practical
of enterprise in unique situations world wide.
From the world's largest civil engineering project in
Hong Kong to the flotation of the National Grid in the
UK our more enterprising approach works.
It could do so for you, too.
To find out more call Robert Derry-Evans,
Managing Partner, on 0171 606 9000.



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Schumacher casts long shadow over wary Hill

FROM OLIVER HOIT IN IMOLA

THE little boy running around the pizzeria downstairs at the Hotel Turismo on Sunday night was the waiter's son. He wore a cap that was about five sizes too big for him and, naturally, it bore the legend "Ferrari". From time to time, he sat down at customers' tables, mouthing the word "Schumacher" to impress his audience.

The world champion's name was on Damon Hill's lips, too, in the aftermath of the Englishman's fourth win of the season here on Sunday. It was a comfortable enough victory, notable for Williams' clever strategy and Hill's mature driving, but it brought with it the rumble of approaching danger.

Hill sensed it in the thousands of supporters who swarmed on to the circuit seconds after the race had finished and turned it into a river of Ferrari-red as they moved as one towards the podium to laud Michael Schumacher, their new hero. He felt it, too, in the performance of the German, who finished a determined second, and the subtle hints of optimism that he is gradually allowing to be dragged from him.

Despite Hill's flawless start to the season, the three successive wins that preceded the minor aberration at the Nürburgring ten days ago, he has long distrusted Schumacher's professions of pessimism about Ferrari's prospects, particularly the German's oft-stated assertion that they will not be in a position to win a race until mid-season.



Hill: lengthy lead

The world champion showed, when he snatched pole position from Hill on Saturday, that he and his Ferrari, complete with an upgraded engine, could be a match for the might of Williams-Renault. The gap between Hill and Schumacher in the drivers' championship is 27 points, but Hill may soon have reason to sink into his cushion.

"Michael Schumacher," Hill said on Sunday evening, "has every reason to be batten down the hatches and preparing for a tilt at his third world championship in a row. He is still a serious threat, be sure of that. His car is getting better all the time and the engine is not bad either. If they had the engine they used in qualifying available for the race, who knows what would have happened."

He may find out when the Formula One circus reconvenes in Monaco next week, for a race once dominated by Hill's late father, Graham, and which the son now covets more than anything but the world championship. Ferrari will have their latest engine for that race, one which Schumacher has won for the past two years.

While Schumacher admitted that he and the team might indeed "take another step forward" in the principality, Ferrari have been pipped in the race to be the most upwardly mobile early-season team by McLaren-Mercedes. David Coulthard led on Sunday for the first 20 laps and was running fourth when he was forced to retire late on with gearbox problems.

"I do not think anybody who saw us in Argentina with all the problems we had there would have thought that a McLaren-Mercedes would be leading a grand prix by Imola," Coulthard said, "but we have come a long way and I felt very comfortable in the lead. If it was not for the mechanical problem, we would have had a podium position, which would have been deserved rather than inherited. I am feeling more and more confident all the time and things are looking a lot brighter for all of us here."

Brian Clarke on how a drop in temperature can lead to a rise in frustration for the well-prepared angler

THIS has been the bleakest start to a trout season for some years. At least, it has unless your name is Andy Finlay and you have just demolished, quite by chance, the record for a wild brown trout with a 25lb 6oz fish from Loch Awe.

Air temperatures have been low, so water temperatures have been low; and as a result of the latter, the trout in most waters have been less interested in food.

This suppression of appetite has evolved as nature's way of matching food required to food available. In an angling context, it is seen most dramatically when migratory species such as salmon and sea trout return from the ocean.

These fish, which characteristically come from rivers containing only limited food, go to sea measuring a few inches; they return, after a few months, at many times their original size. When shoals of large fish return to waters holding little food, there is, of course, insufficient for them to eat. If they needed food at this stage, they would starve and so risk impairing their reproductive processes. Reproduction is nature's great imperative and must go ahead at all costs. To ensure that it can, nature has shaped salmon and sea trout, as all other creatures, to their environment. When the great fish return, they do not need food — indeed, their stomachs all but atrophy. The fish have evolved to survive on food fat alone.

It is this same suppression of appetite, in a different form, that is influencing sport for flyfishers now. There is little food available in freshwater because those insects that are present are not yet active and the weeds that would provide the sites and feeding grounds for more insects have not yet grown. To ensure that nature stays in balance, the same low temperatures that have slowed other developments slow the fish's metabolism. As their metabolism slows, so their energy output is reduced and appetite, which fuels energy output and growth, is suppressed.

While all anglers are affected by this wonderful, synchronised, survival system, those who like to fish with imitative flies are the hardest



A brown trout, caught with the aid of a mayfly, is reeled in. Moments later, the fly was removed and the fish was returned to the water

hit. In the present spell of cold weather, the fish are less interested in food and so are less interested in flies that look and behave like food.

The occasional warm day that, on a lake, stimulates a haunch of ridge may warm the fish sufficiently for them to feed briefly, but that is an occasional lucky break. For the most part, early-season fishing on rivers is dependent on fly hatching and early-season fishing on lakes is dependent on using artificial flies that prompt a reaction from the fish based on something other than hunger — on curiosity or aggression, for example.

The lake angler wishing to do well in cold weather is most likely to succeed with something that attracts attention but does not look too big a mouthful for a fish not really interested in food. In other words, small lures pulled steadily through the water are likely to do better than accurately-designed nymphs fished in a nymph-like way. For all the bleakness so far,

sport is set to improve. May is the month when nature warms up, even in years like this. Even though it may be cooler than usual for the time of year, absolute temperatures are rising and a rise of a few degrees makes all the difference.

Among the ubiquitous small olives on rivers and the aquatic midges set to appear on lakes, two flies are going to stand out: the hawthorn fly and the mayfly. Neither of them can be mistaken or missed. The hawthorn is a large, black and, upon inspection, quite hairy beast. It can readily be identified at a distance because of the way it flies with its long legs trailing like an undercarriage. The fly tends to gather in the lee of trees when a wind is blowing. It gets onto the water only if it

is blown there and, being a terrestrial and unsuited to the water, it struggles quickly to take it through the surface tension. Once trapped in the surface film, the fly cannot escape and usually every one that is seen by a trout is taken. The hawthorn will appear

be dependent on temperature and light, and the colder the spring, the later the first hatches.

With most flies, a delay in appearance of a week or two would not be noticed. Most flies are not as visible as the mayfly, not as important to either fish or angler and, anyway, have a much less clearly-defined season. The mayfly's arrival on a given water at a given time can usually be predicted to within a day or two.

Because the hatch is such an event and provides such extraordinary fishing, access to mayfly waters when the fly is expected is usually tightly controlled. Clubs often limit not only their own members' days on the water, but limit numbers of guests or exclude them completely. Hotels and

pubs near good mayfly waters can be booked long in advance for the annual carnival.

This year, the fly is likely to be anything up to a week later than usual, depending on the water and its geographical location. If it is, there are going to be quite a few disappointed anglers about. Hoteliers and fishery owners will be forced to explain that later days cannot be booked because they are already booked. Likewise, there can be no refunds. Just as the number of anglers must be matched to the available days, so money must be matched to a proprietor's needs.

It seems to be, as any salmon or sea trout would remind us, another of those laws of nature.

□ Brian Clarke's next fishing column will appear on Monday June 3.

"Those who like to fish with imitative flies are the hardest hit"

any time now and will be around for about three weeks. It will overlap nicely with the mayfly, which I expect to be late this year. It appears at different times of the month on different waters, but generally at the same time of the month on the same waters. The variations that occur seem to

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALEXANDER, JAMES MARTIN Alexander late of Camberley, Surrey, died on 24 August 1993 (estate about £5,000).

BARKER, ROBERT Barker late of Camberley, Surrey, died on 24 August 1993 (estate about £5,000).

BOYLE, PATRICK Boyle late of Camberley, Surrey, died on 24 August 1993 (estate about £5,000).

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER Westwood Property Services Limited, Registered Number: 0057711. Trading Name: Westwood Property Services Limited. Nature of Business: Construction and related activities. Trade classification: 23. Date of Appointment: 25 April 1996. Names of joint administrative receivers: Roger March, Ian Clifford Powell, Office Holder Numbers: 9525, 7852. Address: Price Waterhouse, 9 Broad Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN, Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS.

PUBLIC ORGANISATION LIMITED

(In Liquidation)

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the creditors of the Public Organisation Limited (in Liquidation) will be held at 10.30 am on 15 May 1998 at 10.30 am for the purpose of electing a Liquidator.

To receive a statement as to the affairs of the Company.

To consider the appointment of a Liquidator for the Company.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN RE THE MATTER OF SPOONER

WILSON & SONS LIMITED

And in the matter of the Insolvency Act 1986

A Petition to wind up the above named company was presented to the court on 12 April 1996 by the petitioner, the Liquidator, and was read by the court on 12 April 1996.

The court has ordered that the company be wound up and that the Liquidator be appointed.

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Misrule was right on target for the holiday

The standard kitbag issued with a Bank Holiday Monday contains assorted clothing from swimwear to umbrellas, frantically driven and queues of cars driving by red-faced males shouting "we never doing this again" at regular intervals. You should have stayed at home: there was a cracking yarn on the telly.

BBC1 is good at these Bank Holiday one-offs, but it rarely succeeds as spectacularly as it did last night. *Lord of Misrule* broke no new ground, left no stereotype unexploited, unerringly hit every obvious humour target. It was, in short, wonderful.

The omens were good. It starred Richard Wilson and Prunella Scales and was written by Guy Jenkin, whose previous credits include *Drop the Dead Donkey* and *A Very Open Prison*. This went further than either of those, mixing drama, comedy, satire and slapstick.

Jenkin's strength is that he plots as well as he writes. *Lord of Misrule* is about Bill Webster, a retired Lord Chancellor (Wilson) whose memoirs contain enough dirt to bring down the Government. This dirt includes a photograph of "Charles and Camilla", whoever they might be ("I didn't know Charles had a tattoo"). Webster has spent a lifetime in politics: "42 years in a janitor full of maggots struggling to be the one nearest the lid." He now lives in a crumbling Cornish pile near a village full of crumbling fishermen: *Lord of Misrule* was filmed in Fowey and the title refers to a fictitious carnival practice whereby a local idiot gets to run the village for a day. But not all the misrule is local.

To pay for repairs to his home, Webster intends to sell the political dirt to a tabloid. The Government gets wind and sends its Min of Ag and Fish (Scales), to talk Webster

round. Meanwhile offshore, a fishing boat has picked up £500,000 worth of cannabis which the village proceeds to sell over the bar in "special brownies" at £2 each.

Thus the scene is set for a race to buy the memoirs from Webster. Into the village, which is now full of people high on cannabis, come a tabloid reporter and his editor with £500,000 in used notes and the Prime Minister, no less, with an equal sum aimed at buying Webster's silence over an "incident with a boy or girl" in Singapore.

A scene in which the tabloid editor and the Prime Minister wrestle in a filthy ditch is glorious slapstick, though other cameos are just as effective: Angus Deayton plays the head of M15, whose hobby is hitting golf balls off the roof of his office aimed at glass-topped Thames pleasure boats full of Japanese tourists.

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

Extracts from Webster's memoirs occasionally surface, glimpsed by lip-smacking members of the family.

"What's all this about talking to Boadicea?" "Oh, you mean the letter from Thatcher's psychiatrist." And the dispatch of the Fishing Minister to a fishing village is naturally preceded by pointed local exchanges about the state of the industry: "Bad news about the

boat I'm afraid. I know, it doesn't catch no fish."

If I had a complaint, it would be that there are moments when matters become too serious, partly to do with the relationship between Webster and his granddaughter (played by Emily Mortimer) and especially to do with Webster's estranged son, an element that only slowed the pace.

Never mind: *Lord of Misrule* was mostly splendid and had a good old-fashioned twist at the end. I shall not reveal it lest some of you had a premonition about the traffic and set the video. How was it on the M4? I bet you're never doing that again.

If *Lord of Misrule* was a welcome exercise in tested drama, what is one to make of *The Liver Birds*? In an echo of *Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads?* this returns for a new series, a mere 20-something years after the last one. Yes, but why?

The point about the original was that it was a child of its time, a natural outgrowth of the Liverpool era: the Beatles, McHugh, Bleasdale and the rise to supremacy of Liverpool Football Club. Some of those touchstones still exist individually, but as a collective vibration Liverpool has passed from the national psyche.

Carla Lane's writing is as sharp as ever. Nerys Hughes and Polly James, as Sandra and Beryl, bravely try to graft the bubbly personalities from their previous incarnations on to a couple now past 50 and rendered single again through divorce and widowhood. The overwhelming impression is of defeatism and a shortage of ideas. The first *Liver Birds* survive in the television memory as classic products of their time: these new ones resemble no more than a desperate attempt to plunder the past and

give it a veneer of the present.

At least *The Liver Birds* had curiosity value. An Inspector Calls (Channel 4) has been a generally good series on investigations of various kinds, but last night's *Car Capers* did no more than skim the surface of insurance investigation.

Cases straight out of a textbook included whether water permeating rotten windows can really be called "storm damage", people whose claims failed because they had not properly filled out proposal forms and unfortunately who discovered too late that the cars they owned had previously been written off.

The programme offered one pause for thought. An investigator said that the people he disliked most were the ones who, having just been involved in an accident where someone died, had as their first question: "Will this affect my no claims bonus?"

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (18543)

7.00am BBC Breakfast News (CeeFax) (38804)

8.00am Breakfast News Extra (CeeFax) (489529)

9.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7791200)

9.45am Killroy (s) (6025842)

10.30am Good Morning (s) (49200)

12.00pm News (CeeFax) (1001910) 12.05pm Room for Improvement (s) (5243642)

1.30pm Going for Gold (s) (4732282)

1.45pm News (CeeFax) and weather (11911)

1.50pm Regional News and weather (62920736)

1.40pm Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (8945864)

2.00pm FILM: Rockin' Nelson (1958). Comedy with Jeanne Carson and Donald Sinden. Villagers fight to prevent their Scottish island being turned into a missile site. Directed by Michael Leigh (18200)

3.30pm Playdays (s) (2760281) 3.50pm Monster Cafe (s) (7282255) 4.05pm Casper Classics (s) (7282194) 4.10pm Dennis the Menace (CeeFax) (s) (5038842) 4.35pm Out of Tune (CeeFax) (2068026) 5.00pm Newsround (CeeFax) (7598558) 5.10pm The Lowdown (CeeFax) (s) (5387465)

5.35pm Neighbours (s) (CeeFax) (s) (7282858)

6.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather (113)

6.30pm Regional News magazines (485)

7.00pm 2point4 Children. Bill finds a scrap of paper which leads her to think her teenage son is a tobytoy (s) (CeeFax) (s) (1910)

7.30pm EastEnders. Mark and Ruth confront Pauline with the evidence they have amassed against Willy. Carol and Alan celebrate their marriage with a party at the Vic (CeeFax) (s) (849)

8.00pm Great Ormond Street. The story of 17-year-old Carol Curran, who went down with a cliff palate (CeeFax) (3718)

8.30pm Funny World: The Funny World of Weddings. A comic compilation from sketches and all-come in the BBC archives (CeeFax) (s) (6485)

9.00pm News (CeeFax) regional news and weather (3303)

9.30pm Men Behaving Badly. Dorothy is recovering from an operation, but Gary is no nurse (s) (CeeFax) (s) (45736)

9.50pm Love Connection (1985/91) 9.55pm 10.00pm Men Behaving Badly (35718)

10.30pm Cardiac Arrest (15378) 11.00pm A Knit to the Heart (745938) 11.30pm-1.15pm FILM: The Black Tomb (160026)

10.00pm Cardiac Arrest. Hard-hitting medical drama. A child is thought to be the victim of baby-battering (CeeFax) (s) (35718)

10.30pm A Knife to the Heart. The series about the history of transplant surgery hears from a healthy, 30-year-old survivor of a kidney transplant and a French surgeon who originally had to rely on judiciously excised organ donors (CeeFax) (s) (765533)

11.30pm FILM: The Black Tomb (1985) with John Turner and Heather Sears. Horror story about a nobleman who returns from his honeymoon with his second wife to find that his once loyal villagers have turned against him. Directed by Robert Hartford-Davis (84874)

12.45am Weather (167224)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am-9.00am (46520) 8.30am When A-Mess (17522) 9.00am Press Your Luck (532377)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Marking Time (7373200) 6.25am Animal Physiology (7369007) 6.50am Oceans and Climate (5385200)

7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (CeeFax) and signing (4780688)

7.30pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (s) (CeeFax) (53377) 8.00pm Peter Pan and the Pirates (s) (CeeFax) (s) (7504874)

8.25pm Oakie Doke (s) (s) (5572587) 8.40pm Star Trek (s) (s) (8900649)

9.08pm Daytime on Two: Belfast Film (4685552)

9.25pm Christianity in Today's World (4772161) 9.45pm Watch (5852397) 10.00pm Playdays (2429303) 10.25pm Come Outside (2467552) 11.05pm Space Ark (1289682) 11.15pm Writing and Pictures (9805845) 11.30pm Ghostwriter (9910)

12.00pm See Hear! (29571) 12.30pm Working Lunch (57842) 1.00pm Teaching Today (39533) 1.30pm Showcases (62226376) 1.40pm Hotch Potch House (6945981)

2.00pm Oakie Doke (s) (s) (4492353)

2.10pm The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7285620)

3.00pm News (CeeFax) and weather (7045736)

3.30pm Westminster (CeeFax) (s) (9790945) 3.55pm News (CeeFax) and weather (8189910) 4.00pm The Day(s) (378) 4.30pm Ready, Steady, Go! (s) (262) 5.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (CeeFax) (s) (4751303)

5.40pm The Ladies of the House. A profile of Gillian Shepherd. MP (848910)

6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (739216)

6.25pm Heartbreak High (CeeFax) (s) (543397)

7.10pm The Ren and Stimpy Show (CeeFax) (s) (21842)

7.30pm The Technophobe's Guide to the Future. Nick Hinton investigates digital broadcasting. If Glover meets the GPs who turn to their computer when they need a second opinion, and Pauline Quirk continues to get to grips with her home computer (s) (991)

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ROOMS WITH
A VIEW OVER
THE THAMES

RK

BUSINESS

TUESDAY MAY 7 1996

BARGAIN BREAK 38

TOUR FIRMS TRY
TO CURB
DISCOUNT HOLIDAYS

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Business optimism over jobs

Unemployment figures are set to fall as British businesses fulfil intentions to hire extra staff, according to a survey by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company.

The D&B survey of 1,900 companies found that the proportion of businesses planning to create jobs rose from 59.5 per cent in the first quarter to 63 per cent in the second quarter.

The survey also found that companies are expecting an increase in sales and profit in spite of which they see little latitude to raise their prices.

The more optimistic picture of economic conditions is backed up by news of a boom in capital investment by companies.

The Finance & Leasing Association (FLA) calculates that its members provided more than £3 billion of finance to businesses in March — nearly double the level provided in the same period last year.

Extra year for Rowland

David Rowland, who was due to stand down as chairman of Lloyd's of London in December, has had his £450,000-a-year contract extended for a further 12 months. Lloyd's is in the process of trying to gain support from its 34,000 names for a radical restructuring and recapitalisation that will effectively ring-fence Lloyd's from the problems of the past. Final hand, page 38

Lucas talks

Lucas Industries, the engineer, has confirmed reports of talks with Vario Corporation of the US about possible strategic links. A formal statement rushed out over the Bank Holiday weekend said the talks included a possible merger of the two companies' braking operations. Some analysts have seen the potential link as a precursor to an eventual full merger of the companies.



Collision course: Clare Spottiswoode is adding the final touches to a review that will conclude one of the most bitter regulatory disputes in years

British Gas set to clash with regulator on prices

By MARTIN WALLER AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS is on a collision course with Clare Spottiswoode, the industry regulator, who is this week putting the final touches to a tough review that could cut domestic prices by 8 per cent from next April.

Ms Spottiswoode is also thought to be looking for real domestic price cuts of 2 per cent each year thereafter, up to the year 2002. This would be the inevitable outcome of the pricing controls she will shortly announce on TransCo, British Gas's pipeline side, which is to be demerged next year.

But such cuts are unlikely to be acceptable to the com-

pany, which is expected to insist on a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry instead. If imposed in full, they would almost certainly require future dividend cuts.

The City is braced for Ms Spottiswoode's sighting shot in the five-year price regulation of TransCo next Monday. That would be the culmination of one of the most public disputes between industry and a regulator in recent years.

Revenue of at least £300 million a year is at stake. If the controls are as onerous as the City's worst expectations, it could be higher. Both sides have said the gulf between them is so wide an MMC reference is almost inevitable.

At the heart of the row is the vexed matter of British Gas's depreciation policy, designed to ensure funding of capital expenditure, since privatisation in 1986. City observers say

Ms Spottiswoode is convinced depreciation has been set too high, at perhaps an extra £200 million a year, so allowing British Gas to understate profits. She is thought to be keen to impose a tight price cap regime, linked to retail price inflation (RPI), to claw back some of the excess profit.

Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst at Yamaichi International, is convinced Ms Spottiswoode is serious about deep price cuts. "She is saying they have been over-depreciating for several years. You cannot expect me to impose RPI numbers on profits that have been understated for years."

British Gas, he thinks, will be obdurate. "If they see tough numbers they feel have been cobbled together, unless they have a very strong intellectual and financial basis to them, I believe British Gas will say, what have we got to lose by

going to the MMC?" Ms Spottiswoode's initial pronouncement will be followed by three weeks of public consultation, with the final proposals due at the end of June, followed by more public consultation.

City brokers like Mr Hawkins expect her to opt for a sharp one-off reduction in TransCo's charges — as much as 20 per cent — to claw back some of this extra depreciation. This would translate, given TransCo's costs are 40 per cent of total gas prices, into an 8 per cent tariff cut.

For the next four years, a real price cut of 5 per cent on TransCo is thought to be under consideration, translating into a 2 per cent fall in prices to consumers. TransCo currently operates on a similar formula. Tighter controls would be politically popular to counter the perception that regulators treat the utilities too lightly. Some

think Ms Spottiswoode's political aspirations could weigh on the decision. She has spoken of the sense of merging regulatory offices, a view Labour is thought to share. There is ground to be gained by a tough regime now if she wishes to be the main regulator.

TransCo has urged lenience on the grounds that full competition in the domestic market — scheduled for 1998 — will raise its costs considerably. Then it will have to handle the billing and meter-reading for the new suppliers that use its network. Those tasks are currently restricted to suppliers serving industrial and commercial customers and those participating in domestic trials in the South West.

Higher costs of competition, it says, will go some way to counter falling capital expenditure, from £886 million in 1997 to £716 million in 2004.

MCA lures new chief with \$76m pay package

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

IN A further ratcheting up of huge executive salaries in corporate America, Frank Biondi, the former chief executive of Viacom, is joining the MCA film studio, owned by Seagram, for a salary package worth \$76 million over five years.

The figure emerges from documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mr Biondi, 51, who is becoming chief executive of MCA, will receive \$1 million in basic salary — the maximum allowable as a tax-deductible expense for the company — and \$300,000 in deferred compensation. He will also receive an annual bonus of \$4.5 million that could rise as high as \$9 million, and a generous grant of options on Seagram shares worth around \$25 million, according to Grant Crystal, an independent pay consultant.

The deal makes Mr Biondi one of the most highly paid executives in an industry renowned for the remarkable

earnings of its top people. Mr Biondi earned about \$12 million a year between 1992 and 1994. He also received a handsome, though undisclosed, payoff from Viacom, the cable, video and entertainment group he left earlier this year after disagreements with the



Biondi: generous deal

company's owner, Sumner Redstone. Mr Biondi's appointment marks the end of MCA's long search for a chief executive.

The size of pay packages within the entertainment industry has begun to raise eyebrows even in America, where large executive salaries usually provoke little comment. Michael Ovitz, the newly appointed chief executive of Disney, has a pay package worth around \$96 million, although it is heavily dependent on performance-related bonuses and share options.

Ted Turner may earn even more when he becomes deputy chairman of Time Warner following the sale of his cable network to that company. Mr Turner's package could be worth \$100 million. Both Disney and Time Warner, however, are considerably larger companies than MCA, making Mr Biondi's package look extremely generous.

New York shares tumble

SHARES on Wall Street tumbled in early trading as investors moved out of blue chips and into smaller companies. Analysts said that the drop of more than 50 points in the Dow Jones industrial average was due to concern over the long bond yield, which was above 7 per cent.

Shortly after midday, the Dow was down 53.10 points, or 0.97 per cent, at 5,424.93, activating limits on program trading. Volume was relatively light, at 197 million shares.

Trading had started strong, after last week's loss of 90 points, before declines started to outstrip advances. Michael Metz, chief investment strategist at Oppenheimer, said that cash was becoming an attractive alternative. He said: "There is genuine fear that we are finding ourselves in the worst of all possible worlds — inflation, a rise in interest rates, and a slowing in the rate of gain for corporate profits."

Wall Street prices, page 37

US rivals weigh up Midlands

By RICHARD THOMSON AND MARTIN WALLER

HOUSTON INDUSTRIES, a Texas utilities company, has emerged as a potential rival to General Public Utilities (GPU), another US power generator, in a bid for Midlands Electricity, Wall Street sources believe.

Midlands has confirmed that it is in talks with a possible bidder. An offer could come as soon as today. Any approach from GPU could spark a bidding war that would be highly lucrative to the thousands of private shareholders who bought into Midlands

on privatisation five years ago. Houston Industries has been looking for an investment in the UK power industry for some time, and was foiled last year in an attempt to buy Norweb, the regional electricity company in the North West.

GPU, which is based in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and operates the Three Mile Island nuclear power station that came close to disaster in 1979, is leading a near-£2 billion takeover approach in alliance with Cinergy Corporation, Cincinnati's energy company. GPU has recently made expensive investments in Australia and Bolivia as part of a policy of international expansion. The

company is known to have the financial firepower to support another expensive investment, this time in the UK. Total net income last year was \$440 million.

The entry of another US company into the bidding for Midlands would come as little surprise, since many of the more aggressive utilities groups in the US are looking for ways to diversify out of their increasingly tightly regulated home market.

Observers are convinced that several other such companies are still sniffing around the depleted sector and the City says the bidding wars in the power industry are far from over.

Investors await ruling on fate of ostrich firm

By ROBERT MILLER AND KAREN ZAGOR

THOUSANDS of investors who spent at least £10 million on buying ostriches are pinning their hopes for the early return of their birds on a High Court hearing tomorrow.

The ostriches were impounded on seven sites in Belgium last month after the Department of Trade and Industry applied to have the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), the Nottingham-based company that sold the birds, closed down. The court appointed Michael Pugh, the Official Receiver, as provisional liquidator until this week's hearing. The OFC is now the subject of an official Serious Fraud Office investigation.

It is not clear whether OFC will contest the DTI winding-up order. If the company decides to fight, and early indications are that it will, then the registrar will adjourn the case for a full High Court hearing. If the DTI case is not contested the Official Receiver will continue with his investigation, which is independent of the SFO's inquiry. Either way, Mr Pugh will have to seek a ruling from the court on the continued upkeep of the ostriches. It is likely that he will have to dip into funds to

pay for their upkeep in the foreseeable future.

Before Easter, Mr Pugh visited the Belgian sites where some 3,000 birds are under the care of Eddy Nachtergaele, a farmer. It is understood that he is satisfied that each bird has been properly tagged with a unique electronic number, with one owner per bird. Mr Pugh has made it clear that he is not prepared to release the ostriches "until I have made further investigations to establish what the precise ownership position is as regards individual ostriches".

The ownership of another 900 birds shipped to Belgium from Namibia after the provisional winding-up order is still not clear. Nor is it clear who owns the chicks being produced — a mature breeding bird can cost £14,000.

Inquiries by *The Times* have established that a number of ostrich owners sold all their assets, including homes, to buy the birds after being promised minimum annual returns of 51.6 per cent for five years. The ostrich craze has been fuelled by the "Mad Cow" scare; the meat of the birds is seen as a healthy alternative to beef.

Mercury's future under scrutiny

By ERIC REGULY

CABLE AND WIRELESS will this week start to seek a new role for its Mercury Communications offshoot after the collapse of merger talks with BT. Observers believe that linking Mercury with one of the big cable companies appears one of the more promising options.

Mercury, owned 80 per cent by C&W and 20 per cent by Bell Canada International, is showing new signs of life after an overhaul in 1994 and 1995, designed to slash Mercury's costs in the face of strong competition from BT and other operators. About 2,500 employees lost their jobs and the company pulled back from several markets, including the residential sector.

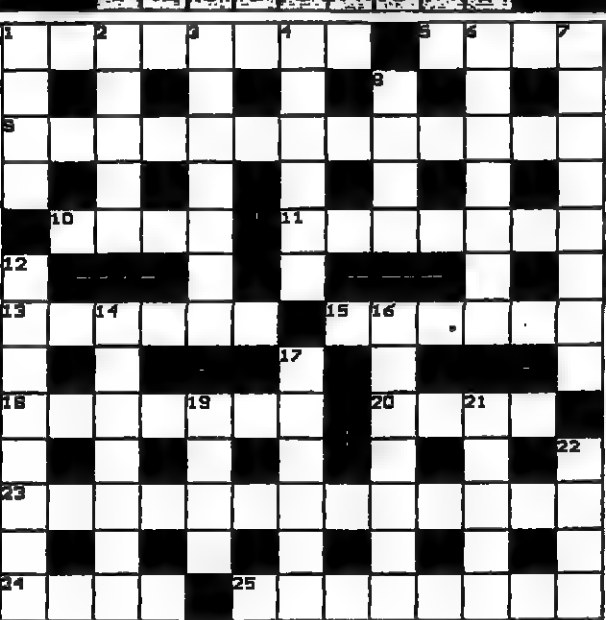
Mercury is back on a growth track and should report improved operating profits for

1995-96: Hoare Govett analysts expect about £220 million, up from £194 million.

Mercury is introducing new products ranging from "One-Call", giving users a single number for fixed, mobile and fax services, to virtual private networks for corporations. A £12 million marketing campaign shows its new confidence.

However, Mercury's market is largely business users. If it wants to fight BT in other areas, it must reach the consumer, and cable companies are the best bet. It has no interest in building its own access network, a costly exercise. Mercury could provide cable companies with a national and international phone network. Bell Canada has tried to bring its cable interests and Mercury closer together.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 775

ACROSS

- 1 One representing ordinary folk (8)
- 5 Hit violently; party (slang) (4)
- 9 Instantly asleep (3,4,1,5)
- 10 Invent (word); piece of money (4)
- 11 One waltzed, one told Dreadful Lies (7)
- 13 Old trial (often pl.); Scots jury (6)
- 15 Sick feeling (6)
- 16 Come to grips (7)
- 20 Drained-fluid receptacle (4)
- 23 Utterly (exhausted) (4,3,6)
- 24 Gemstone, has layers of colour (4)
- 25 To broadcast (8)

DOWN

- 1 Stern structure, deck (4)
- 2 Paved area by house (5)
- 3 Wilhelm Gottfried —, 17C mathematician (7)
- 4 Humid; erotic (novel) (6)
- 6 Prayers; their bell (7)
- 7 Anne —, the Bard's wife (8)
- 8 Strip in eg Venetian blind (4)
- 12 Marsupial; sort of court (8)
- 14 Vague, half-seen (7)
- 16 Unplaced runner (4-3)
- 17 Translate; present for approval (6)
- 19 Fuel, fertiliser from bog (4)
- 21 White note with stem (5)
- 22 Cloaked (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 774

ACROSS: 1 Blue moon 5 Aces 8 Clown 9 Cochlea 11 Let 12 Top-drawer 13 Gaffer 15 Cyprus 18 Forthwith 19 Gum 20 Scamper 21 Chill 22 Eyes 23 Reindeer

DOWN: 1 Backlog 2 U-boat 3 Mind the shop 4 Occupy 6 Cold War 7 Stair 10 Carry the can 14 Tarrare 16 Similar 17 Pierce 18 Feste 19 Glide

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TIMES TUESDAY MAY 7 1996
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Chirac
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Bureau

With passengers set to double in 16 years the South-East's airports face terminal trouble

Almost twice as many passengers are predicted to be using South-East airports by the end of the next decade — all demands forecast for any airport when has brought a push through rise in London's busy air terminals in high summer. Traffic could rise from an average level of around 70 million a year to nearly 140 million.

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But the case for 1997 & 1998

Madrid signals tough new line over Gibraltar

By Tunku Varadarajan in Madrid and Our Foreign Staff

SPAIN'S new Foreign Minister yesterday gave a warning of a tough new line on Gibraltar, and said that he "did not rule out" a return to a closed border between mainland Spain and the British colony.

Abel Matutes promised, in an interview published in *El Mundo*, to put pressure on Gibraltar if the existing measures to deal with smuggling and contraband did not yield swifter results.

"For the moment, we will continue with the measures which the preceding Government adopted, but if they prove insufficient, we will have to increase the pressure," Señor Matutes said.

"I would not like to have to resort to breaking off communications, but we will have to take any steps that are necessary. We do not rule anything out."

Sources in the ruling Popular Party said that it was Señor Matutes who had insisted, before the elections in March, that a commitment to recover Gibraltar should form a part of the party's election manifesto. He is also believed to be very close to Javier Rózpé, the former party spokesman on foreign affairs, who has advocated a closed border.

The Foreign Minister also described as "crazy" a pro-

spective new European Union directive on the winding-up of credit institutions, which would invest the Supreme Court of Gibraltar with the power to enforce a decree of bankruptcy.

The previous Spanish Government blocked the directive, and a continued block would appear to run counter to the European Commission's concern that Gibraltar's financial services sector be brought into line with the rest of Europe.

Significantly, Señor Matutes also called for the construction without delay of a Common Foreign and Security Policy for the EU. "Europe must speak with only one voice and it is evident that France and Germany must be the chief actors in the CFSP," he said. "If Spain wants to carry any weight on the international scene, it needs to align itself basically, radically and in principle with France and Germany."

Señor Matutes discounted a prominent role for Britain in such a common policy saying "the British do not believe in it." He added: "Spain must maintain good relations with Britain, but aligning with France and Germany is our great priority." The Foreign Minister also expressed his admiration for what he called

the "Rhine model" of Europe, of which Germany was "the paradigm".

A former European Commissioner, Señor Matutes is committed to deeper European integration, and subscribes to the view held by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that only further integration can keep the peace in Europe.

The "Rhine model", which he described as "highly desirable", was preferable to the "Anglo-Saxon model" of Europe. Señor Matutes described the latter as "more Calvinist, hard-edged and orthodox, with a greater capitalist flexibility, perhaps more appropriate to the British character" than for the rest of Europe.

On the subjects of economic and monetary union and Nato, however, Señor Matutes took a line that was more in tune with British interests. "I think it would be reasonable to stop the clock of monetary union if we are not ready," he said. "Each economy can only do as well as realities allow. If we try to drive a Fiat 600 at the pace of a Formula One car, the motor would simply explode before the first bend in the track." On Nato, Señor Matutes said that Spain was now ready for integration into



Abel Matutes, Spain's Foreign Minister, embraces Carlos Westendorp, his outgoing predecessor, yesterday

the military command structure of the alliance.

In manifestos published yesterday for the general election on May 16, Gibraltar's political parties called for a loosening of ties with Britain. The ruling Gibraltar Socialist

and Labour Party called for a decolonisation of the Rock but with Britain retaining control of defence and foreign affairs. The opposition Gibraltar Social Democratic Party stated that "our ultimate objective is to ensure a

decolonised status in which Gibraltar enjoys the security of continuing close links with Britain and full European rights". The tiny National Party said the Rock should be granted "city-state" status within the EU, with the Queen

remaining head of state. Under the current constitution, Gibraltar's 15-member House of Assembly is in charge of most domestic affairs. Britain has responsibility for internal security, foreign and defence policy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Envoy post for Gandhi grandson

Delhi: Gopal Gandhi, a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, has been appointed as High Commissioner to South Africa, where the Indian independence leader began to champion civil rights nearly a century ago.

Gopal's father was born in 1900 in Durban, where Gandhi was practising law. Mahatma Gandhi's three other grandchildren live in South Africa. One is an African National Congress MP. (AP)

Truce broken

Monrovia: US Marines opened fire to protect their embassy in the Liberian capital and shots were heard around the city after the deadline for a truce in faction fighting. (Reuters)

Traders drown

Freetown: More than 100 people drowned off the coast of Sierra Leone when a boat carrying market traders capsized, survivors said. Hospital sources said 116 bodies had been recovered. (Reuters)

Graf 'blackmail'

Mannheim: German public prosecutors said on they had charged a man aged 68 with trying to blackmail the father of tennis star Steffi Graf. Peter Graf is in prison facing allegations of tax evasion. (Reuters)

Activist returns

Taipei: Peter Huang, 59, a Taiwanese independence activist who tried in 1970 to assassinate Chiang Ching-kuo, a son of Chiang Kai-shek, returned to Taiwan from exile in America. (Reuters)

Chun denial

Seoul: Chun Doo Hwan, the jailed South Korean former President, denied at his trial for treason that he ordered troops to fire on demonstrators in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980. (Reuters)

Rail sabotage

Bonn: Anti-nuclear activists sabotaged railway lines and clashed with police as Germany prepared for a shipment of nuclear waste, due to arrive from France this week. (Reuters)

Midway refuge

Los Angeles: Midway, the Pacific atoll where the US Navy won a crucial victory over the Japanese in 1942, is to become a wildlife refuge after the naval base there is closed later this year.

Cardinal dies

Brussels: Cardinal Leo Josef Suenens, retired Archbishop of Malines-Brussels and a leading figure at the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s, has died. He was 91. (AP) **Obituary, page 17**

Man bites dog

Cairo: A stolen German shepherd guard dog was returned to its owner with its ears in bandages after a thief bit it in a vain attempt to stop it barking. The thief and two others were arrested. (AFP)

Tourists warned over fake doctors

FROM JAMES DOWIE IN NEW YORK

BRITISH tourists travelling to Florida are being warned to watch out for bogus doctors following the case of a British girl who died on a trip to Disney World.

A man posing as a doctor, who treated the girl, is now in custody in New Jersey on charges of third-degree murder, manslaughter and practicing without a licence.

Rebecca Richards, 11, of Rotherham, died after her grandmother sought help from a medical house-call service in Orlando, Florida, in 1993. Amrish Kumar Patel, of On-Call Medical Services, prescribed an antibiotic for a throat infection instead of diagnosing the onset of diabetes. The company prescribed the drug using the name of a real doctor who no longer worked there.

William Villalana, 30, and his wife Martine, 22, who owned the house-call service, face similar charges to Mr Patel, 28, who studied medicine in his native India, but was not qualified to practise in Florida. The couple ran another branch in Miami with a second unlicensed doctor, Rosendo Gonzalez, who was arrested last year.

Nina Botcher of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, said the case against On-Call Medical Services was the "first of its kind". "They covered a wide territory and they actually had a referral service," she said. "What we are used to with an unlicensed practice is someone practising solo in the back of their house, not someone out in the open. Their primary targets seemed to be the hotels," she added. "That was probably their primary clientele."

Ms Botcher said that Florida doctors were required to carry pocket-sized certificates at all times, and that tourists should ask to see them.

Jim Solomons, a spokesman for the Orange County Sheriff in Orlando, said On-Call Medical Services had treated an estimated 75-80 tourists before closing. "As far as we can tell, this one operation was totally unique," he said.

Chirac popularity revives after bruising first year

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Chirac said yesterday that reducing France's deficit and building a single European currency remained the key aims of his presidency, despite a first year in office marked by unpopularity, economic dislocation and the worst strikes since 1968.

M Chirac was elected President a year ago today and, although France avidly assesses his tumultuous year, he has made clear that the man nicknamed "le Bulldozer" is not for turning.

"Today the objective is clear — to go further in reducing public spending because this is the only way to cut taxes from 1997 without making deficits larger," he wrote in an article for the newspaper *Le Monde* yesterday. "The European Union must have a real identity, a single currency and a common policy on trade, foreign affairs and security," he said.

It has been a bruising first round for the President, but his personal popularity is finally reviving after plunging to the lowest levels of any president in modern French history. Nevertheless, most voters remain dubious about his policies and Government: only 35 per cent are satisfied with his first year, according to the latest opinion polls, even though most have come to admire his "dynamism" and "presidential style".

A man of great charm, M Chirac has been working hard

on his public image and the "bulldozer" who rammed through a series of controversial measures without apparent regard for popularity at the start of his seven-year term is gradually evolving into something closer to a stretch limousine: sleek, personally accommodating and unlikely to turn any sharp corners.

But the ride to get here has been anything but smooth and has been more notable for bitter debate than concrete achievements. Many of the promises that swept him to power on May 7, last year, lie broken: taxes and unemployment are up, his Government is divided and the battle over welfare reform and deficit reduction that erupted in last year's strikes is far from over.

M Chirac has six more years in office, but with legislative elections just two years away, the future of his Government and that of M Juppé are less assured.

The President plainly has ended his first year in better shape than his Government. Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, is still widely disliked and the battle over welfare reform and deficit reduction that erupted in last year's strikes is far from over.

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nuclear testing: in the Paris Métro, where Islamic terrorists launched a bloody summer bombing campaign; and on the streets of French cities, where welfare reform plans to reduce spending and meet the Maastricht rules for a single currency provoked nearly a month of crippling strikes last winter and left much of the reform programme in tatters.

But once the smoke had cleared, many voters found they could live with the figure that emerged — less peppy than de Gaulle and more invigorating than Mitterrand.

Even the left-leaning *Liberation* newspaper was forced to admit that he has grown into the presidential mantle. Few politicians can kiss a baby, congratulate a film star or down a beer with a local peasant with quite such panache, a gift that certainly will be on show when M Chirac and his wife Bernadette come to Britain for a four-day state visit next week.

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Patten: timely visit

US debates trade status of China

Washington: Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, arrived in Washington last night just as an election-year debate over renewing China's preferential trading status was heating up (Martin Fletcher writes).

Mr Patten will spend three days arguing that renewal is vital to Hong Kong's political and economic future. President Clinton must reach a decision by June 4, and is expected to support renewal, but it is far from certain that the Republican Congress will follow suit.

Bob Dole, the Senate leader and Republican presidential challenger, is clearly tempted to abandon his past support for renewal so he can accuse the President of "codding the butchers of Peking" — the very accusation Mr Clinton levelled against President Bush in 1992.

The only substantial increase was in the number of actual or attempted bombings. These have risen 52 per cent to 3,199 since 1990, largely

Clinton lifted by thriving economy and falling crime

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN SHARP contrast to his first three years in office, President Clinton is suddenly riding a wave of good fortune.

New FBI figures yesterday showed a nationwide drop in serious crime in 1995, blunting one of the principal issues the Republicans planned to use against Mr Clinton in the autumn presidential elections.

"Because of our tough and smart decisions to put more cops on the street and get kids, guns and drugs off the street, we are now beginning to reverse the trend in violent crime," the President said.

Another batch of new statistics painted a rosy economic picture, enabling Mr Clinton to claim that he is fulfilling the central pledge of his 1992 campaign to revive the economy. But Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman, said: "The truth is, Bill Clinton inherited a strong and growing economy."

The FBI figures showed serious crimes dropped for the fourth consecutive year. There was an 8 per cent fall in murders and a 7 per cent fall in robberies. Crime fell in all regions, but the improvement was particularly noticeable in big cities, where overall crime rates fell 6 per cent.

The only substantial increase was in the number of actual or attempted bombings. These have risen 52 per cent to 3,199 since 1990, largely

because bomb-making instructions and materials are so readily available. The Republicans have benefited from portraying the Democrats as soft on criminals, but this year could be different. The latest figures apart, the Republicans have exposed themselves to attack by fighting to repeal Mr Clinton's assault weapons ban.

The latest economic figures showed unexpectedly strong growth of 2.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year, consumer confidence rising to its highest level in six years and unemployment falling last month to 5.4 per cent, its lowest level in 14 months.

Such economic strength would traditionally guarantee a president's re-election, but Mr Clinton's problem is that the recovery has not translated into higher wages for millions of middle and lower-income Americans. He cannot therefore boast too loudly about his record and is instead presenting it as "one to build on, not to stand on".

On issues in which the Republicans clearly have an advantage, Mr Clinton has been simply embracing their position. He did it again yesterday, announcing his support for a Republican Bill giving a \$5,000 (£3,333) tax credit to families that adopt children and removing barriers to inter-racial adoptions.

Work has meanwhile begun on restoring another of the city's attractions. Workers yesterday began clearing rubble at La Fenice, the opera house destroyed by fire in January.

One team was creating space inside the theatre to see if the floor was strong enough to hold supports for the remaining external walls. Another was setting up a scaffolding on the marble facade, which survived.

Officials are hoping to reopen the 204-year-old opera house in three years after its reconstruction. The cost has been estimated at \$93.5 million (£60 million).

□ CONGRATULATIONS: The Pope urged the youth of the world to remain optimistic as he made a two-day pastoral visit to the foothills of the Italian Alps. (AFP)

Bureaucrats stifle Venetian serenade

By RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF



Gondoliers punt passengers along a canal in Venice. But for now the city's balladeers have fallen silent.

VISITORS to Venice this spring who hope to be serenaded while reclining in a gondola and gazing into the eyes of their beloved are in for a disappointment.

The singers who normally offer *O Sole Mio* and *The Blonde in the Gondola* to the accompaniment of the gondoliers punt along the canals and lagoon of Venice used to form part of Italy's "black economy". Three years ago, however, they started to pay tax, and were licensed by the city authorities.

But now the gondola crooners have fallen victim to a further regulation officially classifying them as "musical entertainers". As a result, they have been ordered to pay contributions to the entertainment union pension fund, and have been banned from singing and playing until they do so.

The gondoliers are refusing to take on the additional role of singing, even though in theory they could ask even higher fees than they do already. They argue that they are boatmen, not singers, and that if they do serenade customers they, too, will be classed as entertainers.

"Romance killed off by the bureaucrats" was the verdict of the *Corriere della Sera* newspaper yesterday.

According to Fulvio Scarpa, head of the Venetian Gondoliers Association, there are around 60 gondoliers, many of them pensioners. If they had to start paying union contributions from their earnings as official entertainers, he said, their state pensions might be at risk.

Some gondoliers suggested that male tourists might like to fill the gap by serenading

Gondoliers suggest male tourists might sing themselves, if they have the voice for it?

their lady companions themselves — provided they had the voice for it, and knew the right words to *O Sole Mio* (not, however, *Just One Corset*, or even *It's Now or Never*).

The bureaucrat behind the new regulation, Augusto Salvadori, was unrepentant yesterday, saying the singers only sang popular Italian (often Neapolitan) songs familiar to tourists, and not

"real Venetian songs", which were dying out.

Signor Salvadori, a lawyer hired by the Venice Tourist Authority to examine possible revenue loopholes in the tourist industry, has also targeted the numerous backpackers who pour into Venice at this time of year and who sleep rough instead of providing the city with income by taking a hotel room. They were "unsuitable guests in a city of art and culture such as Venice", Signor Salvadori said.

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□ CONGRATULATIONS: The Pope urged the youth of the world to remain optimistic as he made a two-day pastoral visit to the foothills of the Italian Alps. (AFP)

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why can't our children READ?

TODAY

● Confusion in class — is phonics the answer?

TOMORROW

● How should our children be taught?



Schools fail the key test

THE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM

Nothing that follows in a child's education is as vital as learning to read. Without that initial building block, success in other areas is all but impossible. Yet it has been obvious for decades that many English schools have been failing this key test.

Today controversy over the teaching of reading will erupt again, as the Office for Standards in Education publishes

a report on three inner-London boroughs. It will paint a sorry picture of underachievement, with almost four out of five children unable to read as well as they should by the age of seven.

Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets are hardly typical of the country, and the report may not do justice to the language barriers many of their schools face. But the conclusions it will reach on the

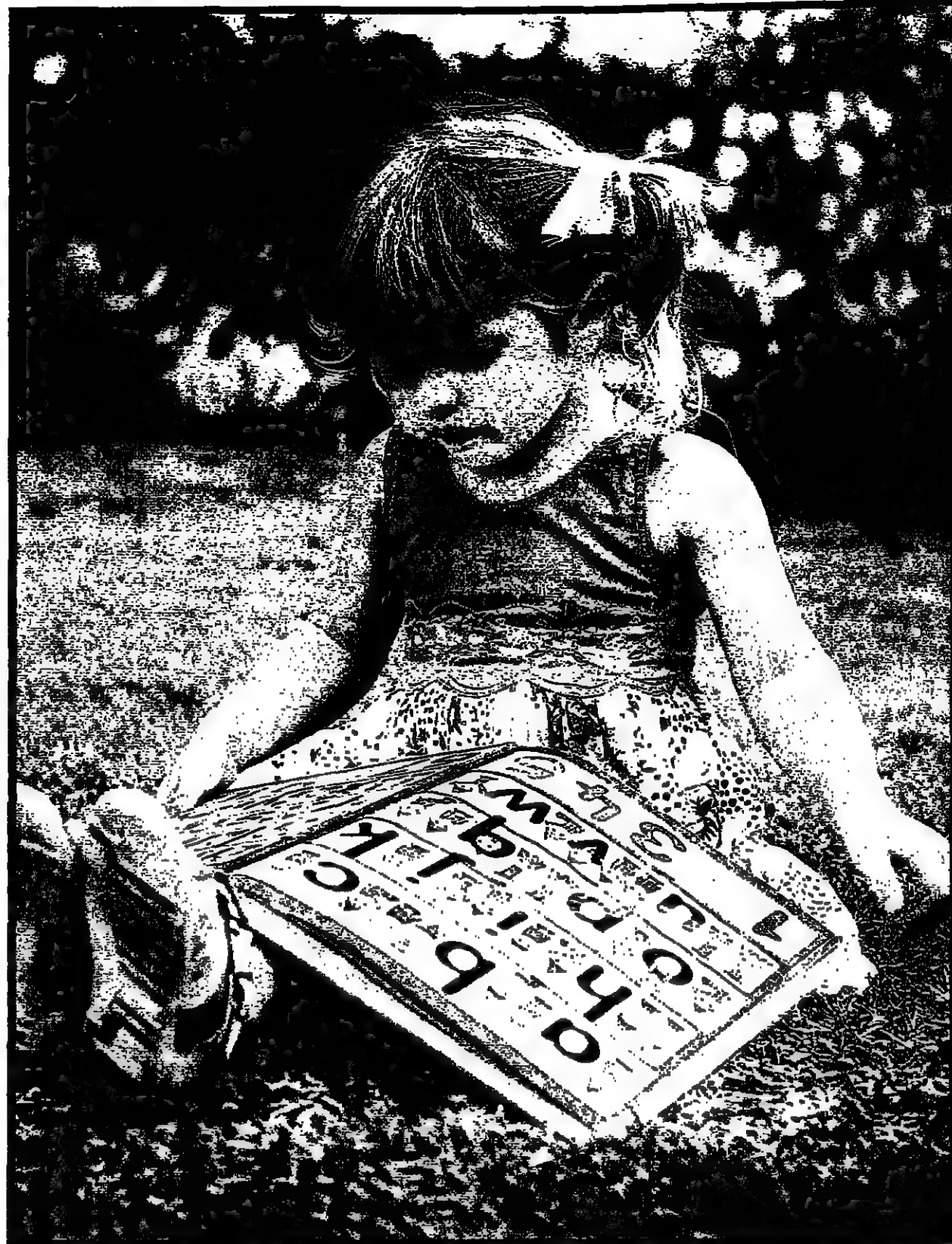
confused way reading is taught will strike a chord with parents everywhere.

The evidence has been piling up that all is not right with the teaching of reading in our primary schools. Secondary head teachers took the unprecedented step of declaring publicly that standards of literacy were dropping among children joining their schools. National tests proved the point, showing that more than half of 11-year-olds were failing to meet the expected standards.

We should not have been surprised. Four years ago, a majority of student teachers admitted that they lacked confidence in teaching children to read. Six out of ten said they had learnt little or nothing of the basics of the subject during their training.

So what has gone wrong? There have been national initiatives, a revision of the curriculum and new guidelines for teacher training, but still the problem persists. Teachers have blamed the national curriculum and large classes for depriving them of the time they need to do justice to reading. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, in discounting a link between class size and general underachievement, made an exception of the first years of school because of the need to hear children read.

But the malaise goes much deeper. As with so much in education, part of the explanation can be found in the home. Many parents no longer read



Learning to read is a vital building block in a child's education, yet many English schools are failing in this area

to their children and when research has shown that at least a quarter of children learn to read at home, schools are bound to feel the draught. Still, they might cope if there was real quality in the classroom.

Instead, confusion reigns. In reading above all, ideological battles have been fought with little care for the young lives caught in the crossfire. Experts, including Mr Woodhead, agree that teaching reading successfully demands a mixture of strategies. Once the basics have been mastered, word recognition has an important role to play. But phonics, the practice of decoding words by sounding out letters, must be at the

heart of the process. To parents who have taught their own children to read, that must appear one of the great truisms of education.

Yet it has been the subject of the most bitter educational debate of the Nineties.

Most of the teachers who packed lectures by Frank Smith, the American champion of the "real books" theory, are still in primary schools. They have lost the argument. The revised national curriculum, which is generally silent on teaching methods, stipulates that phonics must be used to teach reading. But it does not follow that traditional

methods are being applied with enthusiasm or competence. Primary school teachers are the masters of their own classroom. Many still regard phonics as dull and old-fashioned, an approach to be endured before the real learning begins.

The London boroughs report and others before it suggest that many primary teachers are simply confused by their training. At Charlotte Mason College, an outpost of Lancaster University, inspectors found that students were inadequately prepared to teach reading and could neither stretch the brightest nor support strugglers. Teacher training departments were the

cradle of supposedly progressive theory in reading, yet government guidelines continue to give the colleges a free rein on how to approach the teaching of reading.

Today's report will trigger a strengthening of inspectors' powers; surely a further rethink on training cannot be far behind. International comparisons are thin on the ground, but domestic research has shown that as many as one adult in six reads poorly. If the necessary skills have not been acquired by the age of ten, low educational achievement and poor employment prospects are almost guaranteed.

JOHN O'LEARY

Answer may be a mix of styles

BASIC METHODS

SCHOOLS use three main methods to develop reading which are, in practice, usually blended by teachers to suit the needs of individual pupils.

For parents, the advice is simple: spend time reading with your child and show by your own enjoyment of the book, or the words to learn, that reading is fun.

Teachers starting with toddlers often begin with the phonics approach, to build up an understanding of the mechanics of word formation. The component parts of words are spoken by the teacher and repeated by the pupils as they construct words. Dr Joyce Morris has identified 44 different constituent sounds in the English language. Pupils are introduced to more difficult words as their confidence increases.

Look and say is a practice which aims to get children repeating the sound of whole words, without breaking them down. Their ability to read is built on their knowledge of individual words.

The real books method, often portrayed as the opposite of phonics, is used to encourage infants first to enjoy stories and the content of a book as a whole. They will read or listen to stories, and difficult words need not be explained at the time, so long as the child appreciates the meaning of the book.

Parents can easily try all three methods at home, and most probably do so unconsciously, says Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English.

Teachers use all these methods and work out which suits a particular child at a particular stage. The best advice to parents is to read a lot to your children and enjoy the books yourself.

In schools using the Montessori method, the teaching of reading is based on words learnt by the phonic system, including books where phonic words are used in context. Children are introduced to reading from the age of four.

In Britain's dozen Stetson schools, based on the theories of Rudolf Steiner, children are not introduced to books until they are aged six. They first hear stories told from memory by their teacher, and learn the alphabet by forming letters in the air and then writing them down.

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JFK's chair

Kennedy's sexual appetite may have stemmed from his drug dose

PRESIDENT Kennedy took his rocking chair with him wherever he travelled. Like many people with a damaged back he suffered if he had to sit for any length of time in either a very soft chair or a straight, hard-backed one. By rocking his chair, he could vary the pressure exerted on those parts of his spine that had been injured during the war.

Increased pigmentation in the person's complexion, moles and freckles become darker, even black, and the creases in the mucous membranes, including the insides of the mouth and lips, show patches of dark blue.

Any patient is in danger as the weakness gradually affects the heart, and hence the circulation. There is also always the hazard of an Addisonian crisis, a condition in which the lack of steroids undermines someone's ability to withstand infection or severe stress.

After the 1950s, when the chemistry of steroids was understood, and artificial steroids became available, it became possible for patients to have a normal life expectancy. There is, however, some difficulty in prescribing just the right dose and this must have been the case when the President first started treatment. Many pictures of Kennedy taken at the time show the over-rounded face associated with steroid over-dosage. Over-dosage can also be associated with psychiatric symptoms and emotional changes and often results in depression or mania.

It is usual to attribute President Kennedy's notorious philandering to the Kennedy genes, but perhaps it should be attributed to an incorrect dose of steroids. Too little and the President would have been dazing in his rocking chair; too much and he might have made another conquest.



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PHONICS

How well do our children read? How well are our children taught to read? Last month, Sir Claus Moser, an Oxford don and educationist, added fuel to fears about underachievement in our schools when he said standards had slipped lower than ever.

There is a widening division, he said, between the "good educational lives of the few and the poor ones of the many". If this is true, can parents assume that their local primary is providing even fundamental teaching in the basics? Is reading, the cornerstone of education, prioritised in our primary schools?

It is safe to assume that an intelligent child will find a way to read whatever the circumstances, but has the way children are taught to read changed for the worse, or have we just raised our expectations? One woman who claims to know the answer is Dr Joyce Morris, a child psychologist, former teacher and literacy specialist who has spent 40 years campaigning for improvements in teaching initial reading.

Along the way, she claims to have discovered a phenomenon that has directly contributed to the high proportion of illiteracy in school-leavers. It is "phonics phobia", a fear of teaching reading by the phonic method. This form of teaching highlights the major spelling patterns in English, making explicit the relationship between speech sounds and graphic symbols.

Dr Morris believes the past 30 years have seen an erosion of this way of teaching, to be replaced by less structured, and ultimately less successful, methods. While studies in schools have suggested phonic teaching as the best means of establishing early literacy, Dr Morris believes politically correct ideology has been allowed



Winklet Smith with her children, Cherelle, nine, and Daniel, eight, who took part in an intensive reading experiment last summer (see right)

to triumph over common sense. "Research in the 1960s showed that if children do not master basic reading before the age of eight, they have only a one in eight chance of becoming effective readers later on. Now many children who leave school having been taught by alternative methods are suffering, and have not even mastered basic reading."

Dr Morris, who spent many years as the head of the Reading Department at the National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales, is convinced of the importance of early learning the phonic way. "The nature of the alphabet writing system of languages such as English, French and German means that their word patterns need

to be taught systematically. It is ridiculous when people turn their back on what is basic to the alphabet system."

Dr Morris became a teacher as soon as she left school, where her idealism was shattered when she realised she had little knowledge about teaching others to read.

She claims she encountered resistance against phonics as

long ago as the 1940s, when she remembers a school inspector denouncing the "old-fashioned" phonic methods then used by infant teachers.

Since then, she believes, radical ideology and a move away from structured teaching to a child-centred, "progressive" approach has led to a fierce battle between educationists for the hearts and minds of teachers.

"Some people resent teaching the phonic system because they themselves were taught it badly. They are indignant to teach in a way that they first experienced as an incompre-

hensible, boring activity. It is not really politically correct to be seen to teach phonically because it hammers away at knowledge in a very explicit way. I believe in structured teaching, but people who do are often believed to be politically to the right. I think they're just right."

"If you don't get the basics right then other teachers have a fight ahead. If you teach phonics correctly you can imbue a child with a love of language. It seems ironic that we can send a man to the Moon and yet we can't teach children to read and spell."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

Winklet Smith came to England from Jamaica with her parents 29 years ago. Now 39 and a single mother, Ms Smith struggles to bring up her three children on a dreary housing estate in north London. An avid reader, she is passionate that reading skills provide the foundations for a better future for her children.

However, when asked if she would like her eldest children, nine-year-old Cherelle and Daniel, eight, to take part in a reading experiment during the summer holidays, she was initially dubious. "I was told that in two weeks the teachers could improve the children's reading age by up to a year. I didn't think it was possible to achieve such a drastic improvement, but I let them try."

In the end she was delighted. "Their achievements and their confidence in reading were boosted. They both thoroughly enjoyed the fortnight and learnt such a lot."

The person responsible for such a transformation is Irene Tyk, headmistress of the private Holland House Preparatory School in Harrow, north London. In just two weeks last year, Mrs Tyk and her husband George turned a group of children, some of whom were barely literate, into capable readers, teaching them using the traditional phonic method.

During their time in their makeshift classroom on the Mozart estate last summer, the 30 youngsters aged 6 to 13 increased their reading age by an average of 13 months.

Mrs Tyk believes their improvements can be attributed to phonic teaching. "English demands that you teach phonically," she says. "There are letters, they have sounds. And until you know these sounds and how to blend them, you can't read."

The Tyks have been running private intensive reading courses for several years. After being approached by,

EXPERIMENT

Katie Ivens, a member of Westminster council, she agreed to run the reading experiment.

Some of the children were reasonable readers, some were barely literate. They were divided into two groups according to ability and were taught for three-and-a-half hours a day over ten days. They were taught sitting in rows, said "good morning" to their teacher every day and were disciplined with stern words if they misbehaved. "They weren't used to having their work marked. The notion of right and wrong answers and of learning things and having them tested was strange to them," says Mrs Tyk.



Irene and George Tyk: great success

However, the children reacted well. "When they realised how quickly they were learning, they became quite excited," she says. "They were subjected to a blast of rigorous but enjoyable work." One girl aged eight increased her reading ability by two years. Others who were initially unable to read at all mastered basic literacy by the end.

"Phonics is seen as teacher-centred because it involves imparting knowledge to children and goes against the trend of child-centred teaching," says Mrs Tyk. "But it works."

Ms Smith is in no doubt about the value of the course. "Cherelle loved every aspect because she was encouraged to explore different avenues, like poetry. She now finds reading much more exciting," she says. "I enjoyed it," says Cherelle. "I learnt to put my English into proper sentences and also learnt more words. It was hard because we had to do about 60 or 70 spellings a day, as well as learn poetry. But it was worth it."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

The test your seven-year-old will face

TO REACH the average reading grade for seven-year-olds, level two in the national curriculum tests, the children have to read a short passage aloud and answer several questions verbally to show how well they understand the story. They will be asked to describe in their own words what happened in the passage and predict what might happen next.

A higher ability seven-year-old could be entered for level three, the standard expected of the average nine-year-old, by taking a comprehension test which involves reading a longer passage and answering written questions. Separate grades for reading are not given in the test for 11-year-olds.

Below is part of one of the passages

READING STANDARD

used in last year's compulsory reading test for seven-year-olds at level two. The words in italics were used to work out a reading accuracy grade, with A awarded for 24 or 25 words correctly pronounced, B for 17 to 23 correct and C for 16 or below.

Children gaining an A were entered for the written comprehension test on a longer passage to try for level three.

Frog came into the house.

"Toad," said Frog, "your trousers and jacket are lying on the floor."

"Tomorrow," said Toad from under the covers.

"Your kitchen sink is filled with dirty dishes," said Frog.

"Tomorrow," said Toad.

"There is dust on your chairs."

"Tomorrow," said Toad.

"Your windows need cleaning," said Frog.

"Your plants need watering."

"Tomorrow," cried Toad. "I will do it all tomorrow!"

Toad sat on the edge of his bed.

"Blah," he said. "I feel down in the dumps."

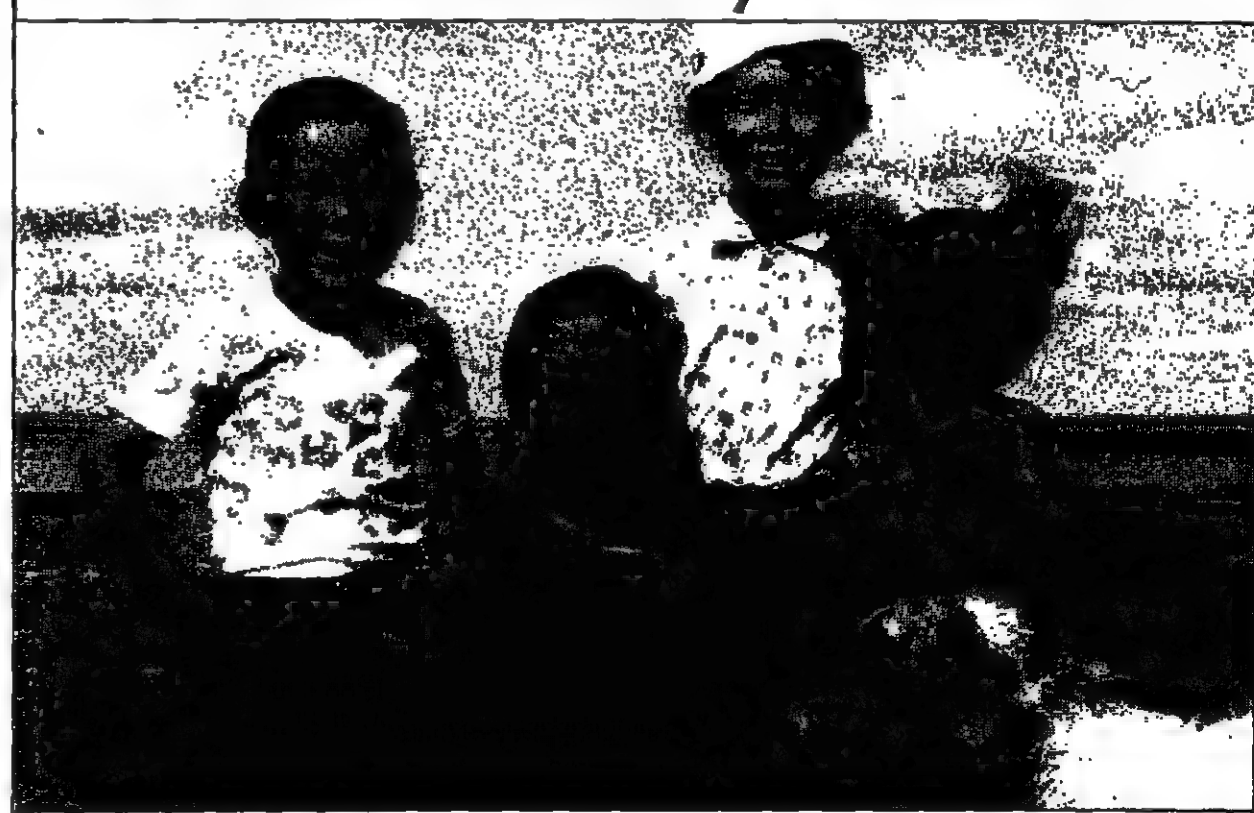
"Why?" asked Frog.

"I am thinking about tomorrow," said Toad. "I am thinking about all of the many things that I will have to do."

"Yes," said Frog. "Tomorrow will be a very hard day for you."

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A national party, not a talking shop

Malcolm Rifkind says the Tories' sole purpose is power

Millions of Britons believe that Conservative government is better than any Labour government. Our duty as Tory MPs is to ensure that we do not damage that trust. That means our overriding purpose over the next 12 months must be to work for victory.

There is a certain fatalism at present among some politicians and some usually well-disposed journalists. But they have their own agenda: sometimes born of ambition, sometimes of naivety and occasionally out of a simple desire for novelty. Their intellectual distinction is impressive less so their judgement.

The Tory party must again become a disciplined, highly efficient fighting machine. We are not, and never have been, a debating society. We are a party whose sole purpose through the centuries has been to win and retain political power. That purpose is needed to enable us to address the main challenges of the next decade: global free trade, Britain in Europe, an affordable welfare state, a low-tax nation and first-rate health, housing and education.

Leadership is crucial, but it needs not only people prepared to lead but also people willing to follow. John Major has worked tirelessly for three years to maintain the unity of the party. He has had overwhelming support from the vast majority of his parliamentary colleagues. He needs the support of them all.

He is not short of advice. This person demands tax reductions, another offers warnings about Europe, a third says we must change policy simply to be different from our opponents. But when such advice is belittled from the rooftops rather than given in private, it merely gives comfort to our political enemies and fuels newspaper reports of dissent, to the despair of our supporters. Labour has its dissenters too. But they have largely learnt to argue in private.

I have no illusions about the difficulties that Europe presents any British government. We are determined to prevent any attempt to subordinate our country to a centralised supra-national structure. But just as we expect others to respect our national interests, so we must respect theirs. We hope that France, Germany and our other colleagues will come to agree that Europe should remain a partnership of nations. I believe that in due course they will. However, it is possible that their perception of their national interests might lead them to seek greater integration than would be acceptable to Britain.

If that were to happen, the unimaginative and mischievous at home and abroad would retreat to their respective extremes. Britain must withdraw, some would say. Britain must submit, others would retort. Both would be wrong. The European Union is already recognising the need for diversity and flexibility. John Major was the first to call for it, in his Leiden speech in 1994. Both Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac have endorsed what would, a few

years ago, have been heresy, although their ideas of flexibility still differ from ours.

The reality, however, is that a flexible, diverse Europe has already emerged. Britain is not part of the social chapter, nor of the Schengen agreement on borders; nor is it committed to a single currency. Denmark has also opted out of a single currency, and is not a member of the Western European Union. Sweden, Austria, Finland and Ireland are neutrals unable to participate in common defence. Even if there is a single currency in 1999, a majority of the 15 members of the EU will not be part of it. Nor will the 12 applicant states from Central and Eastern Europe.

Yet at the same time, membership has grown, and not just because poorer countries wish to join. Prosperous countries such as Sweden, Austria and Finland have recently joined — not to claim subsidies but because they could no longer accept that their economies should be affected by Community decisions that they were unable to influence. They need to share in the decision-making, as do we.

Against this background it would be ludicrous for the Tory party to tear itself apart over Europe. Our duty is to champion those across the EU who favour looser partnership, to advocate reform where necessary, and to ensure our vital interests are protected.

Some high-minded Tories tell us grandly that they are prepared to put country before party and will attack the Government if its EU policy does not meet all their aspirations. I see nothing for them to be proud of. Their hostility undermines the present Government and could allow in Labour; and a Labour government would sell out on the social chapter, abandon the British veto on social, regional and employment policy, and be soft on a single currency. If we wish to prevent erosion of our independence, we need to fight to maintain a Tory government. Otherwise it will be said with some justice that those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad.

It appears from the local election results that we have turned the corner. We must now fight to win every single vote from the Right and Centre of politics, and even from those disillusioned with the Left. Our appeal to the electorate must be the appeal of patriots, not zealots. We must be radical when the national interest requires it, and not merely to differentiate ourselves from Mr Blair. The Conservative Party is a national party or it is nothing.

The Labour Party is ashamed of its past, its identity and its philosophy. We are proud of ours. One part of our heritage is tolerance, pragmatism and evolutionary change. The other is radicalism, boldness and the pioneering spirit. It is by blending those traditions, not by trying to force a choice between them, that we will regain the trust of the people and continue to be in a position to do our duty.

The author is the Foreign Secretary.



PREMIERSHIP TITLE

Not my type — or yours

Typecasting is a blunt instrument — if a dangerously tempting one

Few things are more exhilarating, to my mind, than a really good piece of casting against type. For some reason my heart soars when I meet a tiny, feminine, soft-spoken military parachutist instructor, a weedy admiral with a nasal whine, or a male midwife with a rugby-player's physique and a broken nose. I rejoice to see large motherly women break into a tap-dance with the Roly-Polies, and am always pleased when a lavender-scented old lady writes a sexy and cynical bestseller. I am delighted that the Prime Minister rejected his circus roots to be an accountant (and, moreover, once posed for an official photo as leader of our premier suit-wearing party with a paperclip holding his trousers together). And one of the high-spots of my early career was interviewing a burly Geordie track engineer with British Rail who had trained as a court dressmaker before the 1930s slump drove him onto the tracks. He did his duty by the railway lines, but his heart was still in swags and ruffles; nobody could have guessed it by looking at him.

These things are exciting in the same way as a good drag act: they throw our preconceptions into healthy confusion and broaden our idea of human capacities. They show that the patronising clichés of style journalism and pulp fiction are without power or importance: that nobody's inwardness can be accurately predicted by age, sex, class or physical type. "What you see is what you get" may be good enough for computers, but not for us. We are alive, we are diverse, our minds soar above and beyond the matter we are made of.

These joys are as necessary today as ever. We have changed our laws and social customs so that the old stereotypes are banned: you can no longer condemn your neighbour for living over the brush or being black, nor make assumptions about women, or Welshmen, or people with a limp (though it is still OK to insult the middle class). But the pursuit of tolerance has raced ahead of human nature, and the result is that in practice we cling more desperately than ever to any handle we can get. From Basil Donnell Man to Executive Tart, I hate these as much as the old stereotypes: people who peddle them do more damage than they know. They are like Victorian butterfly collectors, happiest when the subject is pinned out dead.

So my sympathies are with the 820

men who complained to the Equal Opportunities Commission last year. So an ex-brickie wants to be a secretary? Good on him. His putative boss said he wanted someone unambitious and with a willingness to make tea, "so I am going to employ a woman". Boo, hiss! For one thing, that boss may get a nasty shock when he does employ a young woman: many a demure exterior conceals a personality less like Girl Friday than like Baron Samedi. For another, how dare he assume that a man will not be pleasantly unambitious and handy with tea? Has he never met an airline steward?

As for the Dorset country club receptionist Piers Russell, who was sacked because the new management wanted pretty girls, I feel even more fiercely partisan. Without sinking into more typecasting of the Sharon-and-Tracy variety, it is fair to say that employers' insistence on putting youth and beauty on reception has led to hundreds of guest-hours spent in head-banging frustration and yearnings to be possessed by a civil, competent middle-aged person of any sex at all. I hope the Knoll Country Club ends up with the silliest postman they ever filed a fingernail in public: then they'll be sorry (but of course, they might find a Pamela Anderson lookalike with a mind like a steel trap and a burning desire to serve).

However, yesterday we found that Bernadette Vallety, a feminist, has herself resorted to stereotypes of the sort feminists used to condemn, and accuses men of making inappropriate job applications on purpose as a spoiling tactic. (Ment Typical!) Two of them applied to be directors of her Women's Environmental Network, but "I don't think there is a man who would want to have that job as director of an organisation campaigning on menstruation," she said primly. Shame! The pioneers of IVF were men, there are women doctors who specialise in men's genital-urinary problems, there is a woman running fatherhood classes in a male prison.

Even if those two really were doing it just to annoy, they are a very small conspiracy indeed. A glance at what is happening in employment makes it clear that with the building trade in recession and heavy industrial jobs vanishing, men are bound to start trying for "women's" low-paid jobs. Most of the EOC's complainants just want work, and they have a perfect right to be impartially considered for it. To be considered, that is, not by what they seem and are easily defined by, but by what they can do.

In the same way, the homosexual men who were turned down as adoptive parents last week in Edinburgh had a perfect right to have their case considered on its own merits. They wanted to adopt the boy they have fostered for 18 months. He is five, has severe physical and learning problems, and has been rejected by his mother.

The two men, one a nurse, are in a stable ten-year-old relationship and love him; the social workers and the child's legal "curator" backed their adoption attempt. The judge ruled against it, because there is "a fundamental question of principle" surrounding adoption by male cohabitants. In other words, the men's classification as homosexual and society's view of the dangerousness of homosexuals are more important than what they really are, and what they daily and devotedly do for a handicapped child.

Meanwhile, in the other notorious case of the moment, the Zulu child Sifiso Mahlangu has been returned to South Africa not for his own happiness or welfare but because of a piece of history. Mrs Salome Stopford, whom he calls Mummy, is seen by the black world as a demon: an arrogant white madam who stole her black maid's child. The natural parents, meanwhile, can be seen either as heroic fighters for their rights after years of oppression, or as selfish opportunists motivated by payments from the

press. Neither idea is helpful. Not to poor Sifiso, anyway.

We live in a world of emotional instant stories, and everywhere you look there is caricature. Gay man, white madam, profligate princess, fatcat boss, airhead bimbo, frumpy provincial housewife, computer nerd. We journalists love them: as any puppeteer can tell you, stories work best when the characters are kept simple. Children start level, as innocent tots, and then progress (if male) to be either model schoolboys or dangerous yobs; emerging into a welter of male adult types which do not, as yet, easily include efficient secretary or harassed nursery nurse. If female, the tot evolves into a "bubbly teenager" or perhaps "wild child". Before she rejoins the gentlemen under the label "frail pensioner", however, woman has the advantage of a wider choice of mid-life labels: career woman, housewife, earth-mother, glamourpuss, working mum. Within these types there are subdivisions of class: the accused style journalists forever instruct us how to recognise an Essex Man, Middle Englander, Sloane or Young Fogey, regardless of any individuality.

Television, that sly and lying medium, aggravates this process. After the local elections, the news predicably found us a man from Basildon whose swimming-pool refurbishment business had gone bust, so he didn't trust the Tories any more. How neat, how convenient, how meaningless. They could with equal ease have found someone in similar clothes whose business was fine but who voted Lib Dem because of roads policy, or because his favourite auntie in Bacup couldn't get her hip done; and another who votes Tory even in bankruptcy, because he finds Tony Blair's smile so unsettling.

Typecasting is a blunt instrument and a dangerously tempting one. For generations it has saved employers and arbiters and individuals a lot of mental effort. Blonde young woman? Flighty, vain. Young black man? Lawless, quarrelsome, don't trust him. Accountant? Dull dog, don't invite him. Young Tory MP? Devious, heartless chancer. Old Labour MP? Red menace, waiting to spring. Dumpy, middle-aged woman, glasses, short black hair, rural accent? Oh, salt of the earth, reliable but dull, probably no sex life.

Except that she could be Rosemary West. We really must try to look harder at one another.

A change of heart on Europe

We may have to leave the EU, says Woodrow Wyatt

I was an early enthusiast for Europe. In 1951, as Under-Secretary for War, I circulated a paper urging a European army. Atlee said tersely that it was not for a junior minister to propound such ideas, meaning I was going above my station. He thoroughly disliked the April 1951 Schuman Plan for establishing a European coal and steel community between Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and The Netherlands. Doubtless, unlike others, he took seriously as a portent for the future its irrelevant preamble: "Considering that world peace can be safeguarded only by creative efforts commensurate with the dangers that threaten it...". Convinced that the contribution which an organised and vital Europe can make to civilisation is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations... and so on.

When Ted Heath took us into the Common Market in 1972, I vigorously supported him. At the 1975 referendum I campaigned for staying in. Anthony Eden, at his very English house, Eyfield Manor in Wiltshire, would say to me: "I might have taken your view but I belong to an older generation and cannot accept the loss of British independence". Heath told us that we were joining merely a trading association. Even Mrs Thatcher ignored the warning bells of the 1986 Single European Act, by which all the parties "determined to lay the foundations of an ever closer union".

We assumed the premises to everything we signed were nothing but unattainable pious hopes, like prayers in church. Now we know better. We have the European Parliament determined to be superior to ours though subordinate to the non-elected European Commission. We have the Court of Justice, composed of a majority of academicians, not practising lawyers, from which there is no appeal. The court, steeped in continental law, expresses its judgments in terms frequently offensive to our understanding of law. Gradually, anger at seeing the overturning of decisions of our experienced and better qualified judges has risen to boiling point.

We are as alien to the major players on the mainland as they are to us. The view from a land mass is quite different from that from an island looking across the seas for trade and to powerful allies in war among our former colonies, still linked to us by common traditions. We are the awkward squad in the EU, even though we may be liked as individuals. Naturally, Europe is hostile. Hence the delight of our partners over our troubles with beef, and their haste to ban our exports despite their own bad BSE record.

Many of our own civil servants wrongly use our EU membership to turn into law items which the Commission has said are optional, often unknown to ministers, let alone to the public — who are further infuriated by new pettyfoggish regulations. Our irritation with the EU has turned into serious questioning of what advantages we derive from being in it. The reason that foreign firms, including the Japanese, overwhelmingly invest here is not that we are in the EU but because we have a stable society, low taxation, no strikes and a highly productive, low-cost workforce at every level. We are not burdened with the savage extra social welfare costs that continental employers endure.

We are net contributors to the EU budget, costing billions yearly. Any EU handouts to Britain are foreigners' decisions about how to spend some of our own money. Even the great Euro-enthusiast Ken Clarke does not want to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism. Less than 10 per cent of the sales of Britain's 500 top companies go to Germany, France and the Benelux; the entire European market accounts for only 20 per cent of Britain's overseas investment. Belonging to a giant trading block in a world now virtually without tariffs and of accelerating technologies is pointless. If our partners want us to stay in the EU, it should be on our terms, not theirs. They have more to lose. Norman Lamont's short booklet *Sovereign Britain* covers the options excellently.

John Major's approach is to reduce the powers of the Commission; to reform and reduce the powers of the Court of Justice; to keep our veto and not to increase the scope of majority voting; to have nothing to do with a common defence or foreign policy; to return the partnership to the status of a trading association unable to make rules outside that sphere. And, in the unlikely event of a Tory government recommending a single currency, there would be a referendum in which it would be defeated, as Mr Major has already observed.

Tony Blair's policy is to accept EU majority decisions, throttle industry with the social chapter and a minimum wage and continue on the road leading to federalism, even though Mr Blair would try to stop just short of it. As a substantial majority of the country agrees with Mr Major on these fundamental issues, including all but a few of his own supporters, he has a wonderful opportunity, armed with his famous fighting spirit, to rally his downhearted troops and lead them to victory at the election.

Team spirit

TONY BLAIR has sent his condolences to Newcastle United after they were pushed into second place in the Premiership on Sunday by Manchester United. A keen supporter of the local heroes in his Sedgfield constituency, Blair had a traumatic time on the home front at the weekend: his son Euan is a gloating Manchester supporter.

"Tony is sending a message to Newcastle United. He knows Kevin Keegan and Freddie Fletcher, the chief executive, very well," says his agent John Burton. "But his son will be very happy."

Blair scored one of his best photo-opportunities last year at the Labour Party conference when he had a knockabout with Keegan. According to a friend, he was glued to the live television coverage of the final matches at the weekend and came away, well, gutted.

"He has expressed his deep regret about the result," says the friend, who warns that the family divisions are not over yet. "His younger son Nicholas supports Liverpool, and they play Manchester United in the Cup Final on Saturday. Tony is hoping to take his sons to the match."

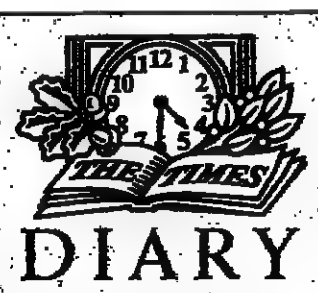
One consolation for Blair, who

sat next to Eric Cantona's father at a recent match, comes from a senior Labour source. Eric, he asserts, is a Labour supporter.

● Russia's claim of British spies in Moscow yesterday brings to mind the day in 1971 when a Times journalist was dispatched to report on the departure of 105 Russians sent home from Britain. Only the



"Thank you for restarting the Cold War..."



week before, The Times had lost to the Russian Embassy staff at football: our reporter waved goodbye to the goalkeeper, two full backs, a centre half and several shin-kicking forwards.

Bull buffs

WHILE British cows are plodding reluctantly to the knackery yard to satisfy the whims of European Union leaders, Sir Leon Brittan, the EU Trade Commissioner, has been floundering about in China handing out European money to local water-buffalo.

In the city of Nanning, Sir Leon has just launched a £2.5 million buffalo improvement programme. Farmers at home are outraged, but Brittan's experts insist that the money is well spent. "The idea is to

semination and get them back to more natural methods," runs the explanation. Mystifying.

Preserve us

THE ARISTOCRACY is turning. A baronet, disgusted by the behaviour of the younger royals, has written to the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, petitioning to surrender his title.

No provision exists under law for relinquishing the title, so the Rev Sir David Ackroyd Gibson,



Holier than thou: Gibson

whose grandfather was created a baronet by George V, will have to lobby for a change similar to the 1963 Peerages Act, under which peers can disclaim their titles. The retired Roman Catholic priest, who lists his hobby in Debut's as "producing the perfect English marmalade", pulls no punches.

"I am unable to accept as monarch a self-confessed adulterer, or indeed an adulterous 'Queen of hearts', especially as their scandalous example seems set to continue," he says in his letter to Howard. "Certainly I will reconsider if those concerned, clothed in sackcloth, are seen to crawl across Parliament Square to the tomb of Edward the Confessor."

● The victory of the new Spanish Prime Minister, José María Aznar, has been tarnished by reports in the Madrid press about his wife. With one cursory glance at the PM's residence, "La Guapa" ("The Pretty One") turned on her stiletto and declared the house unfit for family life.

Beholden

FINLAND is beside itself. In a nation of blondes, a dark-skinned girl has taken the crown of Miss Finland for the first time.

Somewhat to her surprise, Miss



The miss is a hit

Lola Odusoga, 18, born of a Nigerian father and a Finnish mother, has been the subject of lively discussion in the editorial columns. "She's stunningly beautiful," rhapsodises one columnist. "That helps to explain better than political correctness why her victory was greeted with massive publicity, almost totally positive." Miss Finland played down her chances of victory in this month's Miss Universe contest. "I am a bit different," she explained.

P-H-S

هكذا من الأصل



PHONIC SENSE

The educational scandal that is all around us

Unless teachers have been properly taught how to teach, how can they teach children how to read? The message from Ofsted's shocking report on reading standards, to be published today, is that too many teacher training colleges knock the common sense out of their students and replace it, if at all, with misguided dogma. The result: in the London boroughs of Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets, 80 per cent of seven-year-olds are reading at a level below their chronological age. By eleven, 60 per cent are still lagging, and the majority of those are at least two years behind.

Little is more fundamental to the success of a nation or of an individual than literacy. If our children do not learn to read adequately, almost everything else in life is denied them. Yet, as our series beginning today on page 14 shows, reading standards in schools are no better than they were 50 years ago and have fallen in the past decade. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, is determined to find out why this is so and to suggest ways in which it can be put right. His report today will point to the importance of learning the sounds of letters (the method known as "phonics") as a building block to mastering reading. It will also recommend that teachers spend more time teaching whole classes or groups the basic skills needed for decoding the written word.

If this sounds like common sense, it is. Yet our series shows how much more loudly the message of common sense needs hammering home. Many teachers have been taught that phonics is old-fashioned and didactic, and that, left to their own devices, children will somehow absorb the art of reading. Some favour the "look and say" approach, which teaches children to recognise whole words. But how are they then to read words that they have not encountered before? English is not a language of hieroglyphics or

pictograms; it is built up from individual sounds. Why deny children the ability to piece together a whole word from its constituent parts? The worst sufferers from this dogmatic scandal are those children whose parents cannot or will not compensate for the inadequacy of the classroom.

Phonics may have won itself a bad name in the Fifties, when reading lessons resembled an army drill. But the best schools today use the method far more imaginatively. Of course there is a place for "real" books in a classroom, but only as an adjunct to a properly thought-out teaching method.

Mr Woodhead, despite the squeals of the teaching profession, has done parents a service in bringing poor reading standards to the nation's attention. But what can now be done to improve them? The newly established literacy centres will help to disseminate the methods that clearly work. And reports such as today's should be read by all who teach in primary schools. But more must surely be done in teacher training colleges to acquaint teachers with the most effective practices, free from ideological prejudice.

Meanwhile, Mr Woodhead needs greater powers to step up his campaign against the mediocre. His inspectors should be allowed to conduct their own standardised tests on children to assess how much is being learnt in a school. And he should be permitted to expand his remit to local education authorities themselves, which control 10 per cent of the schools budget.

As for charges that he is politically biased, this is a slur on the left. Wanting to raise school standards is not a monopoly of the Right, as David Blunkett, Shadow Education Secretary, would attest. Mr Woodhead is not on the side of any political party; he is on the side of parents, children and the national interest. On whose side are the teachers who criticise him?

VOTES AND SPIES

Tit-for-tat expulsions could cost Yeltsin dear

Russia's announcement that it is to expel a number of British diplomats for spying is a sobering reminder of what has changed since the collapse of communism and what has not. Visceral distrust still marks relations between Moscow and most Western countries. Obsessive secrecy still shrouds decision-making in the Kremlin. The Russians are still suspicious of Western intentions, fear encirclement by enemies and believe that their security can be safeguarded only by the vigilance of their intelligence services. Xenophobia mixes in equal measure with paranoia; the Russians still see the world as a huge conspiracy. Long conditioned to inform on their neighbours, they see espionage as the real motive of almost all foreigners in their country.

There were hopes in some quarters that with the fall of communism, the level of Russian espionage would also fall; the end of the ideological struggle might, it was thought, have created less need for either side to engage in covert activity to penetrate the secrets of its global rival. Such hopes have been sorely disappointed. Russian espionage has, if anything, increased: the Federal Security Service, the reconstituted KGB, has maintained virtually all its directorates and foreign operations. Russian spies are active in industrial, commercial and military fields. Western counter-intelligence is now struggling to keep up with the proliferation of Russian espionage.

The West, for its part, has also maintained its operations in Moscow. Indeed, with political factions competing for influence, a rapid return to traditional secrecy and a struggle between pro-Western reformers and those plotting a return to the hardline past, Russian policy is as opaque as it ever was during the frozen years of communist rule. At a time when the West is trying to encourage reform and discreetly influence the power struggle from outside, the need to

know what is going on is greater than ever. Western intelligence services would be failing their governments if they did not provide the political framework which the Russians are still unwilling to reveal.

Under the unwritten rules of the game, neither side admits to such intelligence-gathering. The Russians, suspicious and secretive, believe little that is not covertly obtained. They equate power with secrecy, and impute to the West their own methods. Laughably, this leads their agents abroad into encrypting information openly obtained in order to make it more credible to the Kremlin. They expect the West to do the same. But political thaw, democratic reform and a realisation that the clichés of communism are outdated have led to greater sophistication in Moscow. There are the beginnings of co-operation with Western Intelligence on the common threats of drugs, organised crime and nuclear smuggling. A covert gentlemen's agreement now exists, though each side still expels those caught red-handed and severely punishes its own citizens serving a foreign power.

Why, therefore, has President Yeltsin decided now to expel British diplomats in a blaze of publicity that is bound to anger London, risk tit-for-tat retaliation and endanger the present warm political relations? The answer lies in election politics. Mr Yeltsin is struggling and needs to woo nationalists and those nostalgic for the old days of superpower status. What better tactic than to strike out at spies and enemies? Britain is the easiest target: a confrontation with America or Germany is too risky, and John Major looks more expendable than President Chirac. His game may misfire. There is no wish here to see Mr Yeltsin defeated. But he must know that such an action risks an exposure of Russian spying in Britain. A new round of expulsions would exact a high price for Mr Yeltsin to pay.

OOH AH MANCHESTER

City deserves glory as well as its team

For most of the world, Manchester today means football. Manchester United deserved to win their third FA Premiership title in four years, though Newcastle gave the Mancunians a thrilling run for their money. But soccer idols such as Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs are not the city's only heroes.

As capital of the Industrial Revolution, Manchester was the most revolutionary city on the globe from the late 18th to the early 19th century. With a fortune built on cotton, coal and the Ship Canal, it was admired and visited from far and wide as the workshop of the world. The rest of the world (though not, oddly enough, the British) still speaks of "Manchester liberalism", the gospel of free trade according to Richard Cobden, John Bright and the Anti-Corn-Law League. Even socialists, such as Friedrich Engels, flocked there to learn how capitalism worked.

With the decline of industrial Lancashire in the early 20th century, Manchester went into eclipse. But over the last two decades the city has experienced a remarkable renaissance that deserves wider recognition. The architecture remains as resplendent as ever: the magnificent Town Hall and Free Trade Hall, the imposing Cathedral and a clutch of wonderful libraries including Chetham's, the first free public library in Europe. To this legacy has been added the most innovative

approach to infrastructure in the country. Manchester is no less distinguished as a beacon of the arts. The Hallé Orchestra, the Royal Exchange theatre, and the School of Music are reminders that the city has always valued high culture, while its most famous band, Oasis, bestrides the world of popular music. Home to one of the first and best of Britain's modern universities, Manchester now boasts two more. Its Chinatown has led a boom in sophisticated cuisine. Even tourism has become a significant force, based around the Granada TV studios and Coronation Street. Quietly, Manchester is re-emerging as a great urban centre.

Sport, then, is but one of many virtues existing here. But Manchester United is more than just a football team. It is a world-class team, known around the globe. It brings glamour and magic to this northern capital. Many Mancunians actually support Manchester City, sadly relegated at the weekend. But all are proud of the team that puts them on the map. If United go on to defeat Liverpool in the FA Cup Final next Saturday, they will complete an unprecedented second double in the space of three seasons. The club might then remember what it owes Manchester, as it displays the silverware in the traditional trip through the splendid streets of this stellar city.

'Flawed' inquiries into police conduct

From Mr Sadiq Khan

Sir, On April 27 you reported that in the space of less than four weeks the record for the highest-ever award for damages by juries against a police force in the UK had been smashed twice. In both cases, the force was the Metropolitan Police, and in both cases the knacker reaction of the Commissioner was a statement that he will appeal against the amounts awarded.

I believe that the way allegations of misconduct against police officers are investigated is flawed and inadequate, and that complainants will continue to seek recourse to the civil courts as long as the complaints system remains unsatisfactory.

Juries in civil cases are very rare. They have a special constitutional function in actions against the police, deciding first whether the plaintiff has proved his case, second the amount of compensatory damages to be awarded, and third whether exemplary damages should be awarded and, if so, for how much.

I recently acted for Kenneth Hsu, the London hairdresser who was awarded £220,000 for wrongful arrest and false imprisonment (report, March 29). I am sure the jury decided to award such a high figure for exemplary damages (£200,000) because they wanted to send a message to the Commissioner that this sort of behaviour from his officers is unacceptable. Moreover, the inference from the jury's findings must be that they believed that the police officers were being untruthful under oath.

In Mr Hsu's case, the Police Complaints Authority has refused to reopen internal investigation against the police officers, despite the record damages awarded. No police officer has been or ever will be disciplined for the assault, false imprisonment and racial abuse dished out to Mr Hsu.

Does the Commissioner's decision to appeal against the decisions of four separate juries in London over the last four weeks mean that he has not taken heed of the signals these juries are sending to him?

Yours faithfully,
SADIQ KHAN,
Christian Fisher (solicitors),
42 Museum Street,
Bloomsbury, WCI.
May 3.

CPS reforms

From the National Convenor of the Crown Prosecution Service

Sir, I write in response to the article on the Crown Prosecution Service by Neil Addison, headed "The public deserves more" (Law, April 30).

The CPS section of the Association of First Division Civil Servants represents the lawyers in the CPS. Those lawyers, too, believe that the public deserves more than they now feel able to provide in terms of an effective and proper prosecuting service.

As a matter of policy the CPS has not recruited lawyers for two years, during which time, of course, a considerable number of lawyers have left. In addition, so far as the more experienced and senior lawyers are concerned, there has been a strategy to lose considerable numbers of them and turn those who remain into managers.

As a result those lawyers who remain involved in prosecuting case-work no longer feel that they can serve the public interest and the interests of justice. This very moderate highly professional and extremely responsible group have now decided to make a public stand to try to protect that public interest.

Mr Addison refers to the present attitude governing the CPS as being one of "work and obey". The CPS lawyers I represent are therefore showing a good deal of courage in making this stand, and I hope that they will receive and enjoy the wholehearted support of the public whose best interests they are seeking to protect.

Yours faithfully,
KEVIN GOODWIN
(National Convenor, CPS Section),
Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1.
May 2.

High society

From Mr Raymond Woodall

Sir, My pleasure on reading the announcement of our daughter's engagement in your forthcoming *Marriages* column today was considerably heightened by the fact that it had been given pride of place at the head of the list. Then it dawned on me that this was simply because her fiancé's name, A. J. Cottrell, ranks high alphabetically.

My wife (née Ulyatt) and I have been resigned throughout our lives to becoming more or less at the bottom of any list and were often condemned to the back row in the form-room because of our lowly alphabetical position. I now realise more than ever what a splendid choice our daughter has made: not only is he a thoroughly nice person but he will take her straight to the top of most lists — always provided she does not decide to adopt a hyphenated name.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND WOODALL,
Athena, 3 Mill Paddock,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
April 30.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Conflicting attitudes on nation state

From Mr Rodney Leach

Sir, Sir Roy Denman, in his letter of May 1, gives three reasons why Britain should fully embrace the emerging European state as opposed to negotiating free trade arrangements with it:

1. Politically we would count for nothing outside the EU and the US President would no longer bother to visit London.

2. A free trade arrangement would be possible only on EU terms.

3. The EU might retaliate if the pound devalued.

Yet there has been no retaliation against the US for the massive devaluation of the dollar — and retaliation would be a breach both of European treaties and of Gatt rules. Would Sir Roy think it reasonable for Britain to threaten retaliation if the euro devalued against the pound? This whole concept is no more than a product of bad-tempered bluster.

Europe needs our market, with which it has a trading surplus, even more than Britain needs the European market. But of course we need each other. That is why, if it ever came to the point of separation, which it has not yet, there is nothing for either side to fear.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH
(Director, Jardine Matheson),
3 Lombard Street, EC3.
May 1.

From Mr Walter Cairns
Sir, Sir Roy Denman's letter on Britain's options in the EU contains two assumptions which do not stand up to close scrutiny.

First, he states that Britain could have a free trade arrangement with the EU only on the same terms as those formerly offered to the European Free Trade Association coun-

tries. He seems to have forgotten that before its accession, Britain's trade with the EU was always healthy in surplus, as opposed to the chronic deficits incurred today.

So if the EU did not give Britain any free trade concession we could still continue to trade with Europe to our own benefit, even if the EU states raised the same barriers against us as before our accession.

Secondly, what evidence has Sir Roy for the proposition that "our exchange rate would be subject to continued supervision"? This has not happened with any other country outside the EU, even though the exchange-rate policies of non-member states has sometimes been geared to gaining a competitive advantage on EU markets.

Countries which trade with the world have never allowed themselves to be too dependent on one particular part of the globe. Britain badly needs to restore its status as a nation trading with the world rather than with Europe if it is to survive in the global marketplace.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. CAIRNS,
Broomhurst Hall,
836 Wilmslow Road, Manchester.
May 1.

Master or servant?

From Mr Nick Royle

Sir, No wonder "Europe", and in particular the European Commission, continues to irritate many people.

Geoffrey Martin, described as "head of representation of the European Commission in Britain", states (report, May 2, later editions): "Everyone in Britain, whether they like it or not, is a citizen of Europe."

One would have thought by now the Commission would be striving to avoid irritating the common man and woman in this country. Such comments are likely to raise the blood pressure of a great number of our fellow subjects and beg the question of why we need and what is the function of the head of representation.

Unless the EU starts behaving more like the servant of the nations of Europe and less like the master many people will endeavour to frustrate its efforts, even those which have merit.

Yours sincerely,
NICK ROYLE,
Joomb Place,
Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

English wine with British beef, bitte

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, Whilst those responsible at 10 Downing Street are to be commended for serving British beef at the lunch for Chancellor Helmut Kohl (report, April 30), it is a great pity that they did not demonstrate the same commitment to our excellent produce in their choice of wines.

Perhaps in offering his German guest a Riesling *Spätlese* produced on the banks of his native Mosel to accompany the smoked Scottish salmon, John Major intended to pay a compliment to our European partners.

How much more appropriate to have served one of the many first-class white wines now available from English vineyards.

I adopted this practice almost 20 years ago when living in the city of Überlingen on Lake Constance, which can document its flourishing wine production from the 12th century. As host to a formal dinner attended by many civic dignitaries — including the local *Kellermeister* — I ensured that the trifled *mousse* of graying from

the waters of that beautiful lake was accompanied by a Chilsdown Müller-Thurgau from the Pater Bros vineyards in my native West Sussex.

The surprise of my German guests was exceeded only by their compliments for this *englischer Spitzenwein*, which encouraged me to serve it with equal success on several future occasions.

Having now retired to this country after almost 30 years in the Federal Republic, my wife and I continue to exchange visits with our German friends. We recently arrived for dinner at the home of the *Oberbürgermeister* bearing some bottles from the Sharnham vineyard near our new home in Devon. This was compared favourably with some of Germany's more prestigious wines.

It's a shame that Chancellor Kohl was denied this possibility.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road,
Torquay, Devon.
May 1.

Tasmania's past

From Associate Professor Roderick P. Power

Sir, Mr Gordon Wise (letter, May 1) states that by 1876 there were no Tasmanian Aborigines. This is a current view, if Aboriginal means 100 per cent Aboriginal descent, but by that criterion there are relatively few Australian Aborigines.

Aboriginality now means claiming Aboriginal descent, and being accepted by a community as Aboriginal. By these criteria, there were some 2,000 Australians claiming to be Tasmanian Aborigines in 1981. By now there would be more.

They are descendants of white whalers and Aboriginal women who lived on the Cape Barren Islands in the Bass Strait. Some are active in promoting their perception of community goals in Tasmania.

Many Australians believe the last "full-blooded" Tasmanian Aborigine was Truganini, a woman who died in 1876. In fact, the last was Suke, a woman who lived on Kangaroo Island, and died there in 1988.

Yours faithfully,
ROD POWER, Head,
School of Behavioural Sciences,
Macquarie University,
New South Wales, Australia.
May 2.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Imposing limits on the Lords

From Lord Strabolgi

Sir, I believe the most satisfactory way to curtail membership of the Lords by birth, on the need for which most people are agreed (report April 25; letters May 1), would be for this hereditary right to cease on the death of the present holder.

As about 25 hereditary peers die every year there would be a rapid reduction in numbers within just two Parliaments. Few hereditaries would be left in the Lords today if such a provision had been included in the 1958 Life Peerages Act.

A moderate reform Bill of this kind would allow many useful and hard-working hereditaries, on whom much of the work of the House depends, to remain members during their lifetimes. It would also avoid the unenviable task of selecting certain hereditaries to be created life peers on a quota system as planned by Labour, which could lead to accusations of nepotism and unfairness.

Such a proposal would result in a Tory majority in the Lords for some years, but a Labour government could rely on the Salisbury/ Addiscombe Convention, whereby the Lords do not reject the manifesto commitments of a Labour government, and the Parliamentary Acts to ensure their legislation was not obstructed.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STRABOLGI (Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman),
House of Lords.
May 4.

From Viscount Mountgarret

Sir, Mr Murray-Pearce (letter, May 1) advocates only one House of Parliament. If that came about there would be nothing to stop a Government voting to extend its life indefinitely.

At present the Lords retains the absolute power to block such a move. It is essential therefore that there is a second chamber with such powers amongst others. Either that chamber should be the House as constituted or replaced by a House entirely divorced from patronage or election. It may be that the present arrangements meet this fundamental point.

Yours faithfully,
MOUNTGARRET,
House of Lords.

Lottery troubles

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, Clearly the obligations of the Director General of the Office of the National Lottery (Oflot) to maximise revenue constrains his ability to deal with public-interest issues adequately (letters, May 2, 4; report, May 3).

The present statutory arrangements make this inevitable, since the promoters wish to expand the market and the National Heritage Department desires more revenue. Public interest pressures are not as great.

In practice, revenue maximisation has become an overriding duty and the arrangements make it difficult, if not impossible, for the director general to regulate in an even-handed way. Such a combination of roles is not found in the statutory powers and duties of other regulators. Clearly, the director general's statutory terms of reference need to be amended to give him an overriding obligation to take account of the public interest.

Yours faithfully,
E. MORAN, Chairman,
The National Council on Gambling,
As from Grovelands Priory Hospital,
Southgate, N14.
May 4.

Doll disease

From Mrs Frances Baird

Sir, I doubt if the doll disease diagnosed by Dr Howell Edwards and his colleagues from Bradford University constitutes the kind of threat you describe ("Fatal infection strikes down middle-aged dolls", May 2).

Hard plastic dolls that have been cherished and carefully stored are not likely to succumb to such degeneration. Many modern substances can trigger the disintegration process — lubricating oils, paints, glues, polishes, perfumes, hair spray, nail varnish, not to mention damp if they are stored in attics, sheds or garages.

Our members have thousands of these beautiful British hard plastic dolls, all in mint condition. As the British Doll Collectors' Club celebrates its 50th anniversary this year nostalgia for childhood dolls, especially among 50-year-olds and over, is growing daily.

Yours etc,
FRANCES BAIRD (Editor,
British Doll Collectors' News),
The Anchorage, Wrotham Road,
Meppan, Kent.

Dainty dish

From Mr Rex Chapman

Sir, Yes, rats are edible (letter, May 2), making human beings the ultimate "guinea pigs" of what we regard as a reckless science.

Sincerely,
REX CHAPMAN,
Fairways, North Foreland Drive,
Skegness, Lincolnshire.
May 2.

Sincerely,
ANDRE MENACHE,
President,
Doctors and Lawyers for
Responsible Medicine,
1046 Weston Park, N8.
May 3.

OBITUARIES

CARDINAL LEO JOZEF SUENENS



Cardinal Leo Jozef Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, 1962-79, died yesterday aged 91. He was born in Brussels on July 16, 1904.

Leo Jozef Suenens was a man of stature in the Roman Catholic Church for more than two decades. He came to prominence in the early 1960s when Pope John XXIII called the world's bishops to Rome for a council which lasted four years and became known as Vatican II. The Pope's aim was to modernise the Church, as he put it, "by opening the windows and letting in the fresh air".

The Pope found in Suenens a man of similar views to his own — and especially so in his hopes for church unity. For John XXIII Suenens had an additional advantage: he could express an idea well on paper, putting it down quickly and succinctly. When the first session of Vatican II fell into organisational chaos under its weight of documents, it was Suenens who was called upon to restructure it.

In 1963 Pope John, then a sick man, was able to go to New York, to present his peace encyclical *Pacem in Terris* to the General Assembly of the United Nations. He sent Suenens instead to New York to present it to the UN.

In 1967 Suenens became the first Cardinal in over 400 years to preach in Canterbury Cathedral — and the first to stay at Lambeth Palace since the days of Cardinal Pole, who was Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of Queen Mary in the 16th century. In the drawing room at the palace there is today a picture of Cardinal Suenens' cathedral at Malines.

Two years later he was also the first Cardinal since the Reformation to occupy the pulpit in York Minster. An unusual historical connection exists between the archdiocese of York and that of Malines-Brussels. In 1921 Lord Halifax led a party of theologians to Malines, at the invitation of Cardinal Mercier, to discuss the bringing of the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions closer together. The talks became known as "The Malines Conversations" and went on for five years, coming to an end with the death of Cardinal Mercier.

They are commemorated at York Minster by a bronze plaque presented by Cardinal Suenens and unveiled by him and Dr Donald Coggan, at the time Archbishop of York. There is another memento. On his deathbed (in the house in the rue des Cendres where the Duchess of Richmond had given the Waterloo Ball) Cardinal Mercier gave his episcopal ring to Lord Halifax. This has been embedded in the stem of a chalice given to York Minster by Halifax's son, the 1st Earl of Halifax, who was Foreign Secretary under both Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill. It is used annually on the Feast of St Peter as well as on the anniversaries of the deaths of Halifax and Mercier.

Suenens was a tall, slim, fit man with a formidable intellect, dauntless courage and a quiet-speaking voice. He generally

wore a grey suit in place of the usual Roman black, and usually without a sign of the customary red at the collar. Donald Coggan once described him as a man with an "incisive mind and possessed of a divine impatience". He could be blunt, too. He once told a conference of nuns in New Jersey to modernise their dress and to give up going to bed at 9pm, since it meant they missed people whom they were there to serve.

At Vatican II Suenens was widely reckoned as the star among the small band of monitors who presided over the proceedings. He himself had a major input in the two main documents, *Lumen Gentium*, the dogmatic constitution of the Church, and *Gaudium et Spes*, the pastoral constitution of the Church in the modern world.

Vatican II was a watershed in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Central bureaucratic decisions were reduced in number. Suenens pressed hardest of all for a bigger role for the bishops worldwide, for less power in the hands of the Curia. He had considerable success.

At Vatican II he had a problem with bishops wanting to make long speeches. He suggested to them that a good way to save time was not to keep referring to each other as, "Your Eminence", "Your Grace" and "Your Beatitude", adding: "I see nothing in the Gospels that the Apostles addressed each other in that way." Later he had to impose time limits on the speeches, though tactfully explaining: "Otherwise we'll all be here longer than they were at Trent and I don't think any of you want that." The Council of Trent, which met in the 16th century, lasted for 18 years.

Suenens set out the work of Vatican II, as he saw it, in *Co-Responsibility in the Church*, a book printed afterwards in 11 languages. He was responsible for several initiatives himself. One was to get it agreed that bishops should retire at the age of 75. They complained that he "bounced it on them". It was a close-run thing. Afterwards Cardinal Spellman of New York said that he had voted the wrong way. He had been sleeping, he said, when the vote was called and got into a muddle. Suenens was made aware of the anger of other bishops, elderly and anxious to stay in their palaces until death. When the session broke for its customary mid-morning drink at Bar Jonah, they all made a point of avoiding him. He said afterwards with some amusement: "They treated me as if I had some very dangerous disease, nobody wanted to be seen talking to me."

He got deacons reinstated in the Church, a move that greatly helped the administration of huge dioceses, like his own with its 2,300,000 Catholics, two main languages (French and Flemish), as well as temporary visitors of differing nationalities, many of them associated with the 260 international organisations with their European headquarters in Brussels.

There were humiliations as well as successes for Suenens at Vatican II. He

sent a controversial document prepared for the Theological Commission to the printers only to discover that, by a mistake of the messenger, it had been left at the office of Cardinal Tisserant, the elderly dean of the College of Cardinals and an arch-conservative. Days passed. Suenens feared that the document had been somehow suppressed. Eventually it was returned to him full of squiggles in red ink and substituted words. The substance of the document was unaltered. Tisserant, the most accomplished of Latinists, had simply upgraded Suenens' own Latin.

In 1963 when John XXIII died Cardinal Montini of Milan, who was to become Pope Paul VI, asked Suenens to preach the eulogy. It was appropriate: Pope John was closest to Suenens than to any of the other Cardinals. Cryptic wires passed between Montini and Suenens. Suenens inquired: "What language? What length?" Montini's response: "Language, you choose. Length, 45 minutes." He spoke in French.

Montini had been a longtime favourite to become Pope, and on his first appearance on the balcony to bless the crowds in St Peter's Square he beckoned the Belgian Cardinal who was standing behind to join him. Suenens at the time was being tipped to fill the job of Secretary of State. He was also talked about in influential circles as likely to be — in succession to Paul VI — the first non-Italian Pope for centuries. But neither thing was to be.

In 1968 Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, shocked the liberals within the Catholic Church. Suenens had flown to Rome shortly beforehand to try to persuade the Pope not to issue it. He was especially interested because annually for nine years he had led an international conference in Brussels of doctors and experts from many professions trying to find practical and acceptable solutions. He was only too aware of the anguish among young couples and the break-up of marriages caused by the ban on birth control.

The Pope issued his encyclical with the massive support of the Cardinals in the Curia, a more powerful body than a British Cabinet. Afterwards the Belgian bishops sat through days and nights before issuing an agreed statement that emphasised the importance of the informed individual conscience.

Birth control had been banned from discussion by the bishops at Vatican II, though they were keen, indeed eager, to discuss it. Pope Paul gave it to a special commission instead and then, with *Humanae Vitae*, pronounced on it himself.

Suenens admitted in later life that he and Pope Paul had had serious differences on how the Church should be run. The Pope argued that a period of quiet, near immobility, was essential for the time being. Suenens believed moving forward was crucial, what he called "the

logic of Vatican II" arguing that tension was inevitable at times of great changes.

Paul gave up answering Suenens' letters. He thus felt it was necessary for him to speak out — not against the Pope but against his advisers and the Vatican bureaucracy. He gave an interview to the French Catholic magazine, *Information Catholique Internationale*, the most damning by a ranking prelate in modern times. The Curia, he pointed out, operated in such a way that it made the Pope an emperor, or an absolute monarch, rather than what he was, the successor of St Peter. The Pope was surrounded by men of a legalistic mentality who refused to recognise that bishops, priests and laity must all now participate in the running of the Church. He complained about repressive measures against modern theologians, the too restricted role the Church was permitting to women religious and the Vatican's failure to grasp the growth of higher education and to adapt structures to meet this change. Within days the interview appeared in 11 languages. Senior Cardinals wrote personal letters demanding a retraction or an apology. Suenens replied that he had no reason to retract or apologise.

Inevitably, Rome marginalised Suenens. Pope Paul put him in charge of the charismatic renewal movement. It was growing apace, especially in the United States. But it was still not a job commensurate with Suenens' stature. He developed a formula that gave the movement focus. He came to see the charismatics as supplying stimulus to ecumenism believing, as he did, that if a few people of different faiths came together to pray, they were already united. The big meetings and the learned commissions still had a place but he had come to the conclusion that ecumenism, to take hold, would need to do so from the grassroots up.

The high point for the Cardinal came when he led 25,000 charismatics in prayer at Notre Dame University in Indiana. Several gatherings, each with congregations of more than 2,000, followed in Britain. In Dublin there were so many people that the main act of worship had to take place in the arena at the Dublin Horse Show grounds.

Suenens could, and would, discuss the latest international football match with visitors; but books were his real love, both writing and reading them. He read about six books a month. At functions he had a habit of asking people if they had read any good books lately. Then he would often read the same books himself, "especially if their choice seemed a bit surprising". Later in his choice in church books tended to be American.

He himself was still writing books past the age of 90. In all, he had 17 published, including several bestsellers. His clear articulate prose, and occasional verse, had an appeal for the person in the pew. In 1992 the Académie Française awarded Cardinal Suenens the Grand Prix de la Francophonie for his writings.

Earlier, in 1976, at Buckingham Palace the Duke of Edinburgh had presented

him with the Templeton Foundation Prize for advancing the cause of religion. The £70,000 which went with the prize, the Cardinal announced he would spend on a centre for Christian renewal in Brussels.

Suenens was a good but not an outstanding preacher. Nevertheless, he attracted huge audiences. The German bishops, when asked to make a contribution to the Munich Olympics in 1972, handed the job over to Suenens. He spoke on Christianity, science and sport. Additional chairs had to be brought in. An invitation that gave him particular pleasure was to be asked to give a university retreat at Oxford.

The Suenens family came of farming stock, his mother French-speaking, his father Flemish. Leo Jozef Suenens was born in Brussels where his father had a restaurant. His father died before he was four and he was brought up, in some poverty, by his widowed mother. An intellectual brilliance showed itself early and at 17 he passed out top, in everything, from his diocesan school. In his teens he wondered whether to be a philosophy don or a priest but eventually decided on the priesthood. He impressed Cardinal Mercier who sent him to university in Rome. Suenens had hoped to find in Rome a spiritual life that he could relate to the world. He was disappointed. Nevertheless, his serious cast of mind brought him into contact with two men, both Belgians, who were to have a major influence on his life. One was Professor Dom Lambert Beauduin, a Benedictine who later founded the ecumenical monastery at Chevetogne. As secretary of The Malines Conversations he had drafted the memorandum issued by Cardinal Mercier, *The Anglican Church United but not Absorbed*. The other influence was Father Vincent Lebbe, who had spent much of his life involved in missionary work in China, and who gave Suenens' European-orientated Catholicism a worldwide reach.

Ordained a priest and back in Brussels, he saw his career take a turn he had not expected. He was sent to teach 12-year-old boys mathematics and French at a diocesan school. The boys would appear to have been more impressed by him than he initially was with them. Years later he said that several turned out to be among the best priests in his diocese.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was appointed an army chaplain. The Belgian Army also found him to be a more than useful footballer and a skilled handball player. In 1943 he became Rector of Louvain University after the former Rector had been imprisoned by the Nazis. In 1945, he was appointed an auxiliary bishop, remaining in the job for the unusually long period of 16 years. His real métier was figuring out the present, discussing it and then driving on courageously into the future. His chance to do this on a large stage came in December 1961 when Pope John XXIII made him Archbishop of Malines-Brussels and three months later a Cardinal. He retired as Archbishop in 1979 but there is no retirement for a Cardinal.

WILLIAM COLBY

William Colby, Director of the CIA, 1973-76, was found dead yesterday in the waters of a tributary of the Potomac River aged 76. He was born on January 4, 1920.

IN HIS memoirs, published in 1978, William Colby made a spirited defence of the CIA and all its works, while at the same time acknowledging a catalogue of malfeasance — often of the blackest hue — which rivalled that of its great competitor on "the other side", the KGB. Though it was relatively brief, Colby's stewardship of the CIA was as controversial as that of any of his perhaps more flamboyant predecessors.

But he had a difficult row to hoe. He took office in the dying months of the Nixon presidency. A nation shaken by the military defeat in Vietnam and the disclosures of the Watergate affair was looking for scapegoats. The CIA was a natural target for its scepticism about US institutions and agencies. Colby opted for "openness" about the CIA's activities. As he put it (with transatlantic directness if not elegance) it was time "to shake secrecy".

Inevitably, the results of such a decision, courageous though it may have been in the circumstances, were messy and unsatisfactory, and won the CIA and its director no friends. It was simply not easy for a service whose very *modus vivendi* had been secrecy to go public overnight in the manner conceived

of by Colby. Such decisions as that of Nixon to authorise Richard Helms — Colby's predecessor at the CIA — to try to prevent the democratically elected President of Chile, Salvador Allende, actually taking power, had been carefully guarded secrets even from those high in the agency's hierarchy. The manner in which this particular revelation was made — which involved a leak to *The New York Times* and a highly-criticised, half-hearted report on the whole proceedings prepared within the CIA itself — served only to shake public confidence, without reassuring public opinion.

But the torrent of revelations and Congress investigations that took place during Colby's time at the top appeared by the end of his brief reign to have ensured that the CIA's capacity to mount reckless covert operations had been brought under the scrutiny of congressional committees, and that this previously mysterious organisation was at last in some degree accountable. It was an unprecedented public discussion of the affairs of the world's most powerful intelligence agency.

Unlike some of his predecessors in the job, William Egan Colby had spent a lifetime in covert intelligence, in the CIA and its forerunner, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

He was born in St Paul's, Minnesota, the son of a US Army officer. After graduating from Princeton University in 1940 he joined the US Army himself, serv-

ing in the Parachute Field Artillery. When, in 1943, the OSS put out an appeal for French speakers Colby joined it, and in the following year was parachuted into occupied France to work with a Resistance unit. Shortly before the end of the war he was in Norway, having been dropped into the country to destroy a railway line used for transporting German reinforcements.

The war over, Colby took an LLB from Columbia University Law School and joined a New York law practice whose head happened to be William J. Donovan, a former head of the OSS. By 1951 Colby was on the staff of the American Embassy in Stockholm, from where he went, in 1953, to Rome. There he spent five years, a period of time whose length was a testimony to the importance the Americans attached to keeping the Communist Party from getting anywhere near coming to power in Italy.

Colby was a devout Roman Catholic and, as such, was often regarded as seeing the struggle against Communism in terms of a holy war against the Antichrist. But in truth he was a professional to his fingertips. Whatever his faults he was free of those manic, psychopathic tendencies which often find unstable personalities to be the shadowy world of secret intelligence.

As the American preoccupation with the situation in Vietnam deepened, he was sent in 1959 to



Saigon with the post of First Secretary to the American Embassy. For the next dozen years he was to be closely involved with the

CIA's covert operations in Vietnam and Laos. He was chief of the agency's Far East Division in Washington, 1962-68, later going

back to Saigon with the personal rank of Ambassador. In this time he came to have an unrivalled knowledge of that theatre.

From 1968 he was in charge of the "programme of support" for the South Vietnamese Government's pacification programme, ostensibly providing roads and schools in areas supposedly liberated from the Vietcong. The programme also ran Phoenix, the operation devoted to the destruction of the Vietcong's underground organisation and the liquidation of its members. Colby appears to have been rather good at this. At least, in testimony given in 1971 before the House Foreign Operations and Government Information Subcommittee he admitted that more than 20,000 Vietcong had been killed while he was in charge of Phoenix — considerably more than the number of casualties inflicted by the average infantry division during a tour of duty in Vietnam.

When asked by the same subcommittee how many of these deaths had occurred under torture, rather than in combat in the open field, he was somewhat more vague. Evidence also suggested that other unfortunate (and probably unimportant) victims were dropped from helicopters "pour encourager les autres". To the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Colby later admitted: "I would not want to testify that nobody was killed or executed in this kind of programme. I think it probably happened, unfortunately."

When, after such a career, Colby came to the helm of the CIA itself in 1973 it was with the reputation of a dedicated man, but not one who inhabited the wilder shores of fanaticism. Nor was he a flamboyant character in the manner of his predecessors, Dulles and Helms. The Congress investigations of the agency which were consequent on his policy of greater openness shook it, and were the cause of his premature resignation in 1976. He was succeeded by George Bush.

But Colby remained unrepentant about the course he had taken. Indeed, he denounced Congress for running what he called "TV spectacles" on the CIA's conduct of its affairs, arguing that they did little more than provide amusement for the idle, and shook the confidence of other friendly intelligence agencies in their American ally. The title of his memoirs, *Honorable Men: My Life in the CIA* (1978), summed up his attitude to the system to which he had devoted the bulk of his working life.

After his career with the CIA was over, he went into private legal practice and held a number of international consultancies. One of his most recent ventures was the creation of an espionage computer game with the Russian Oleg Kalugin, who was himself a former member of the Soviet KGB. Colby's first marriage, to Barbara Heinzen, ended in divorce. He is survived by his second wife Sally and by three sons and a daughter of his first marriage.

Manchester

Appointments
Professor Howard Barringer to be Pro Vice-Chancellor for three years from September 1, 1996.
Professor B. T. Robinson to be Pro Vice-Chancellor for a further period of one year from September 1, 1996.
Mr T. A. Mullin, at present Lecturer in Physics at Oxford University and Fellow of Lincoln College, to be Professor of Condensed Matter Physics in the Department of Physics and Astronomy from September 1, 1996.
Mr D. J. Sanders, at present Visiting Professor in the Manchester School of Engineering, to be Professor of Industrial Control Engineering in the Manchester School of Engineering from March 12, 1996 to September 30, 1996.
Mr P. W. Garrett, at present Senior Lecturer in Economic History in this university, to be Professor of Economic History in the Department of History from May 1, 1996.
Mr J. A. Berkeley, at present Reader in History at this university, to be Professor of History in the Department of History from May 1, 1996.
Mr P. J. Joyce, at present Reader in History at this university, to be Professor of History in the Department of History from May 1, 1996.
Mr W. R. O'Connell, at present Reader in Immunogenetics in the School of Epidemiology and Health Sciences, to be Professor of Immunogenetics in the School of Epidemiology and Health Sciences from May 1, 1996.
Jeffrey Richard Ham to be Professorial Research Fellow in the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies from March 1, 1996, during the continuance of his appointment as senior university research fellow.

Honorary professional appointments

Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, to be Honorary Professor of Law from March 1996, during the continuance of her present public office.
Edward Grayson to be Honorary Professor of Music from April 1, 1996, during the continuance of his appointment as Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music.
Robin M. Davies to be Honorary Professor of Clinical Dental Medicine and Surgery for three years from May 1, 1996.
Bedevo P. Davies to be Honorary Professor of Community Care in the Department of Psychiatry for three years from March 1, 1996.
Christopher Thomas Evans to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Biotechnology in the School of Biological Sciences for three years from March 1, 1996.
Professor of Strategic Cost Management in the Manchester Business School and in the Faculty of Business Administration for three years from January 1, 1996.
David A. Wood to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Microbial Biotechnology in the School of Biological Sciences for three years from September 1, 1995.

Senior lectureships

The following lectures to be senior lectures in the subjects named, from October 1, 1996:
Dr M. J. Andrews, Economics; Dr E. H. Bensch, Computer Science; Dr L. C. Beal, Physiological Sciences in the Department of Medicine and the School of Biological Sciences; Dr John Bowers, Psychology; Dr Isabel P. Braithwaite, Cell Biology in the Department of Cell Biology; Dr Andrew Brass, Biochemistry in the School of Biological Sciences; Ms Marie Brown, Education; Mrs Penelope E. Brown, Comparative Literary Studies in the Department of French Studies; Dr M. P. Burton, Agricultural Economics; Dr Norman Calder, Arctic Language and Literature in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies; Dr William Croft, Linguistics; Dr M. C. De Boer, Biblical Studies in the Department of Religion and Theology; Dr A. R. Enoch, Ecology in the School of Biological Sciences; Dr D. J. Fanning, Music; Ms Margaret D. Foster, Social Policy in the Department of Social Policy and Social Work; Ms Vivien A. Gardner, Drama; Dr A. P. Gize, Geology in the Department of Earth Sciences; Dr P. M. Givens, Sociology; Dr Helen F. Givens, Physics; Dr S. A. Harrison, Primary Education; Mr P. Jones, Ophthalmology; Dr Stephen Kay, Computer Science; Dr Peter Lloyd, Psychology; Dr C. A. Leach, Materials Science; Dr Rosamund McNamee, Medical Statistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Health Sciences; Dr J. Morris, Medical Virology in the Department of Pathological Sciences; Dr Rosemary Morris, History; Dr Joseph Muller,

Institute for Development Policy and Management; Dr Teresa A. O'Brien, Teaching of English Overseas in the Department of Educational Studies; Dr P. J. O'Neil, psychiatric Social Work in the Department of Psychiatry; Dr Terry Peach, Economics; Dr Peter Quayle, Chemistry; Dr M. J. Rhodes, Government; Dr J. J. Shapiro, Computer Science; Dr N. S. Thakkar, Medical Genetics; Dr A. B. Thomas, Sociology and Organisational Behaviour in the Manchester Business School; Ms Susan C. Weinberg, English Language; Dr Jack Williams, Numerical Analysis in the Department of Mathematics; Dr C. D. Wright, Electrical Engineering.

The following Senior Fellows in the Manchester Business School to be senior lecturers in the subjects named, from May 1, 1996:
Dr F. A. Burke, Services Management; Dr C. H. Carr, Strategic Management.

Appointments
Mr Michael Billington, Faculty Estates Officer in the Office of the Director of Estates and Services (in the Registrar and Secretary's Department) from January 1, 1996.
Mr Nicholas James Taylor, Lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Finance from August 1, 1996.
Dr Anita Thapar, Senior Lecturer in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry from January 1, 1996.

WINDJAMMERS

TWENTY RIVALS IN FULL SAIL
From A. J. Villiers
Aboard Ship PARMA, Port Broughton, March 17

One of a fleet of 20 deep-water Cape Horn sailing-ships, the four-masted barque Parma is lying in the roads here loaded and ready for sea, waiting only for the first fair wind — a wind which will take her strongest rival and former consort Pamir to sea from the nearby port of Wollaton. The four-masted barque C. B. Pedersen and Melbourne are loaded at Port Victoria, on the other side of Spencer Gulf, and should also sail on the same day. These ships are a section of the grain "racing" fleet of big sailing-ships which annually carry South Australian grain from Spencer Gulf outports to Falmouth at Queenstown for orders, and it is probable that this year's fleet will be the largest known since the boom years which followed the end of the War. While it is certain that some grain will be carried in square-rigged sail while seaworthy square-rigged sail survives, it is unlikely that so many ships will again be in the trade at the same time. The ships, for the most part, sail out to Australia from Europe in ballast, making for

ON THIS DAY

May 7, 1932

Alan Villiers (1903-1982) was a marine author of considerable merit. For a period after the war he was Master of Outward Bound Sea School, Aberdeen

ships sail uninsured. The Swedish ships are subsidised and carry insurance, but the Finns receive no support from their Government. The principal costs of a sailing-ship are in port and because she needs no bunkers she ordinarily uses only two ports — that where the loads and in which she is ordered to discharge. The tramp steamer must call at several ports to make a long voyage, and even the oil-burner is at a disadvantage. At sea the sailing-ship consumes nothing. She has no need to hurry, unless her master is keen to make a fast passage. Many of the ships could not hurry no matter how necessary it was for them. The combination of big carrier and good sailer is rare; the ships have to be big carriers or they cannot be operated... Some of the vessels, in order to augment their earnings, have been carrying passengers at a charge of 10s. a day. Unless the passengers were carefully chosen and knew exactly what they were embarking on, it is difficult to see how this could be made a success. The world is full of persons who dream fondly of Cape Horn voyages in sail but the number who, as passengers, would actually enjoy such a thing (or even suffer it with good temper) is not large. Nor is the passenger always welcome. The very terms "passenger" and "sailing-ship" have, to the sailor's mind, little in common.

